

CEI Design Thinking Workshops

EXPAND YOUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



What Is Design Thinking ?

Design thinking, also known as human-centered design, is a solution-based process that improves people's lives by making their daily experiences better. Improvements are designed by and with the very people—the users—who are impacted. Through design thinking, people train to think and work like designers. Participants use rapid design and feedback processes to investigate known and ambiguous aspects of a user's experience and surface divergent thinking to generate many new solutions, both possible and impossible.

Design thinking has roots in business, and it's since been adapted to the education field to:

- Build empathy for all the involved in an education focused design transformation,
- Develop civic competencies that can extend this sentence to two lines,
- Hone skills like collaboration, communication, risk taking, and defining failure,
- Create flexible learning environments and personalized learning experiences for students, and
- Carry out student and parent engagement strategies.



Introduction To Design Thinking



CEI recommends that educators who are new to design thinking begin with the Introduction to Design Thinking workshop, a full-day training in which teams engage with the full design process including:

- Learning and practicing new approaches to empathy building,
- Participating in a fast-paced ideation session,
- Building and testing prototypes, and
- Discussing how to bring design thinking into their school or district context.



Design Thinking 2.0 And Beyond



Following the Introduction to Design Thinking workshop, the CEI team offers a series of four, half-day workshops that take a deeper dive into each phase of design thinking. Participants also build fluency in continuous improvement methods to ensure that their teams are monitoring, iterating on, and learning from the projects that they are implementing. Through the Design Thinking 2.0 and Beyond series, school and district teams can accelerate the projects that they are taking on and get personalized support around building the conditions that are critical for successful implementation and sustainability. Moreover, the workshops help to build staff capacity through an explicit focus on how participants can facilitate design thinking in their own context in the future.

ABOUT CEI

The Colorado Education Initiative is a non-profit organization that cultivates systems improvement and equity in K-12 education. For more than a decade, we have been at the forefront of improvement, innovation, and change in Colorado's public education system. Learn more: www.coloradoedinitiative.org.