



# CEI HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN LEARNING NETWORK

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### WHY HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN?

[Colorado Education Initiative](#) (CEI)'s [strategy release](#) in September 2017 reinforced our vision that all Colorado students develop not only academic, but also professional, personal, entrepreneurial, and civic competencies we know are needed for students to become happy, healthy, and successful 21st century adults as a result of their K-12 education in our state. We believe high school redesign is an entry point to transforming systems so that they reliably produce these outcomes at scale for all students.

### WHAT IS THE HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN LEARNING NETWORK?

CEI is offering an opportunity for school/district teams (including from traditional/comprehensive to charter, small to large, rural to urban) to join the High School Redesign Learning Network focused on exploring how Colorado high schools could redesign their systems to produce the above outcomes at scale. Redesigned high schools will offer personalized learning environments that attend to each and every student's social and emotional needs, and offer relevant and rigorous educational experiences designed to prepare students for postsecondary learning, work, and life. CEI is interested in partnering with teams who are committed to redesigning the school experience to confront and ameliorate inequities in achievement based on race, income, proficiency in English, special education status, and other student characteristics.

This project will be divided into two phases, beginning with the Learning Network, which is a ten-week learning opportunity starting in March 2018 focused on helping teams learn about high school redesign, grounded in CEI's [Theory of Change](#), and with a focus on equity and empathy mindsets, conditions for scale, and catalyzing a learning community of schools and districts across Colorado seeking to leverage this work for broader system transformation. The second phase, the Design Network, will run from July 2018 through June 2019 and is designed to support schools and districts who want to move ahead with high school redesign to develop an implementation plan.

For those who have partnered with CEI in the past, this the Learning Network phase will feel different. Rather than being an opportunity to implement a specific project or program, this is an opportunity to explore your school's current state, identify equity gaps, and learn about promising and proven strategies other schools are using to redesign their programs to better meet the needs of all their students. The ideal Learning Network teams will have a balanced representation from the school, district, and broader learning community. Participating teams **must** include the school principal, at least two other representatives from the instructional and counseling staff, and one or more senior district leader. While this network is focused on high school redesign, it will also explore high school as a catalyst for inspiring and promoting broader district system change. As such, we would also encourage engagement by representatives from feeder patterns or broader K-12 leadership as part of strategic learning teams.

It is important to note that participation in the Learning Network **should NOT be viewed as a funding opportunity**. Although CEI has some resources to help support Learning Network activities, there are currently no resources available to pass through to support the implementation of school-based initiatives this spring. It is highly likely, however, that CEI will partner with some or all the members of this Learning Network to pursue funding to support the implementation and scale of high school redesign efforts in the future.

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## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR PARTNER SCHOOLS?

During the Learning Network, CEI will support teams to strengthen the mindsets necessary for system transformation, explore the current best practices to redesign high school programs, and identify the conditions required to scale promising and proven practices. Teams will:

- Analyze school-level data to uncover equity gaps
- Use empathy-building tools to deepen their understanding of the causes of equity gaps
- Explore and discover promising and proven strategies for high school redesign
- Participate in two networked convenings with other Colorado schools and districts
- Learn from and share ideas with other participating teams
- Develop a goal to guide and focus their high school redesign efforts

## WHO IS A GOOD FIT?

Teams most likely to succeed in the High School Redesign Learning Network:

- Have strong interest in redesigning the high school experience to better meet the needs of all their students, with specific interest in developing strong social, emotional, and academic supports in service of a relevant and rigorous educational program for all (see [CEI's High School Redesign Theory of Change](#))
- Demonstrate a willingness to acknowledge and confront systemic discrepancies in student outcomes and opportunities to learn by race, gender, income, IEP status, English language proficiency, and other student characteristics
- Are committed to exploring how their educational program can build a firm foundation for social, emotional, and academic development while ensuring relevance and rigor for all students
- Are supported by district leadership who demonstrate interest in exploring transformative change, support and encourage innovative work, and desire to support the spread and scale of promising practices in their system
- Are committed to joining a network that will support schools and districts to learn from and with each other to redesign the high school experience

## EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Learning Network teams (including a minimum of four members: the building principal, two additional school staff, and a senior district leader; see ideal team composition above) will be expected to:

- Actively engage as thought partners with CEI and the entire Learning Network
- Engage authentically with stakeholders (students, staff, and community) to inform the team's understanding of equity gaps
- Analyze and reflect on school-level data with CEI and other Learning Network teams
- Meet regularly as a team
- Send a full team to attend both convenings (March 7; May 10)
- Host CEI to their school for a site visit
- Save the date CEI's annual Showcase for the launch the Design Network phase (June, dates and location to be confirmed soon)

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## APPLICATION PROCESS

CEI will partner with up to a maximum of 12 schools who will be selected through a competitive application process:

- Informational webinars offered on **January 22, 2018 from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. OR January 25, 2018 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.**
  - <https://zoom.us/j/8938687235> - same link for all webinars, no need to register in advance
- Interested parties should complete a Letter of Interest (LOI) form by **February 6, 2018**
  - Use this [Word document](#) to write and finalize your responses
  - Then copy your responses into this [online form](#) by February 6 to submit your LOI
- CEI will conduct follow-up calls as needed from **February 7-15, 2018**
- Participants will be notified of selection by **February 16, 2018**

## PROJECT TIMELINE

- March 7: Convening #1 (Front Range)
- March 19 – April 13: Site visit window (see LOI form to indicate available days/times)
- March 19 – May 4: Periodic knowledge building activities (via webinar)
- May 10: Convening #2 (Front Range)
- Launch of the Design Network phase at CEI's annual Showcase – June, dates and location to be confirmed soon

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