

Creative Professional Learning in Schools | A Collaborative Research Opportunity

Overview

Status Grow Learning invites secondary schools to test out a promising approach to professional learning. Status Grow provides school leaders with personalized resources so they can easily turn existing faculty time into creative learning time, in their own school context. Participating schools have the opportunity to boost their teams' belief in their collective ability to create new solutions, to energize their teams with shared purpose, and to build momentum for school change toward equitable student outcomes.

Schools will receive a quality professional learning experience at a discounted rate, and a school-specific Learning Report at project's end.

Research Collaboration

This project is also being supported by Angela Atkinson-Duina, Professor of Education Leadership at the University of Southern Maine, as well as a graduate student assistant, who will help to independently verify findings. The research project intends to answer this question: Does the provision of readymade tools and resources coupled with efficient virtual coaching (a personalized professional learning kit) lead to increased Instructional leadership? Collective efficacy? Vibrancy/creativity in the school culture? Readiness for change?

Research Project Timeframe: January- May 2021

More About the Professional Learning

School leaders receive the tools, resources, and guidance needed to facilitate creativity-sparking experiences for their teams, in their own school context. The resources are readymade *and* customizable, inspiring *and* pragmatic. Similar to a gourmet meal kit, Status Grow Learning supplies the recipe and ingredients, and leaders cook up fulfilling professional experiences.

The professional learning kits can be used in remote configurations, in hybrid format, or in person. They include resources for a sequence of learning experiences to occur in a 6 week- 3 month timeframe, depending on the school's existing faculty collaboration structures.

Professional Learning Kit Topic:

Supporting Struggling Learners to Successfully Meet Standards (Secondary Level)

What the Professional Learning Kit Includes:

- **Virtual Coaching:** Supports school/ PD leaders' facilitation & use of the kit
- **Leadership Resources:** Ideas & tools school leaders can use to get their faculties ready for the professional learning
- **Learning Log Folders:** Includes tools to guide staff members' learning & idea development, as well as creative challenges, classroom materials, and additional tools to spark creative thinking
- **Facilitator Materials:** Customizable, electronic facilitator guides and slide decks
- **Personalized Professional Learning Resources:** Fresh, absorbable ideas from the field to inspire creative ideas educators can enact as early as tomorrow

- **Learning Report:** Summarizes school-specific evidence, related to creative professional culture and to the faculty's professional learning experience

How the Professional Learning Experience Is Designed:

- The design integrates human-centered design methodology, adult learning theory, and engaging, equitable instructional practices.
- The experience is an Innovation Cycle that unfolds over time (6 weeks- 3 months, depending on the school's faculty collaboration structures). An Innovation Cycle is a design-based learning process that puts students at the center. The cycle involves generating & testing new ideas, reflecting and iterating. View the [detailed innovation cycle structure here](#).

Learn more about Status Grow Learning's core beliefs and approach at www.statusgrowlearning.com.

Requirements for Participating Schools

- Middle or high school
- Alignment between your school goals & priorities, and the professional learning kit topic (Supporting struggling learners to successfully meet standards)
- An identified, committed point person/ facilitator(s) of the innovation cycle (principal or other school leader)
- Dedicated faculty time in early 2021:
 - Four, 60-90 minute planning/ coaching sessions with the school leader/ facilitator (Occurs every 2-4 weeks)
 - Three, 90-minute faculty sessions (scheduled 2-4 weeks apart) dedicated to the innovation cycle
 - An additional 30-60 minutes for "warm-up" prior to the innovation cycle starts is recommended.
- Willingness to assist with data collection during the test: surveys, observation, interviews, sharing professional learning artifacts
- Funding for the professional learning & coaching, offered at discounted rate. Inquire for details.

To Learn More:

Please contact Kippy Smith, Founder of Status Grow Learning.

ksmith@statusgrowlearning.com

(207) 232-1846

For Specific Questions about Research Component:

Please contact [Angela Atkinson Duina](#), Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership.

angela.atkinsonduina@maine.edu