



DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

Redesigning Education for the Future

Every District. Every Student. Future-Ready.

A guide for district and system leaders exploring membership in the LIFTToFFS Learning Collaborative — what it is, what it delivers, and what it costs to join.

21 (and growing)
PARTNER DISTRICTS

300+
EDUCATORS

9,000
STUDENTS REACHED

Mission

The LIFTtoFFS Learning Collaborative exists to reimagine the future of learning by bringing together educators, researchers, industry leaders, policymakers, and communities to design, test, and scale innovative systems that prepare every learner for a rapidly changing world. Through research and development, strategic partnerships, policy innovation, and human-centered learning design, we support bold transformation that moves education from compliance-driven systems to purpose-driven experiences grounded in human potential, durable skills, and authentic learning.

Vision

We envision a future where every learner experiences education that is relevant, personalized, competency-driven, and connected to the real world — where schools serve as engines of innovation, community vitality, and human flourishing. The Collaborative will become a national catalyst for educational transformation by creating the conditions, partnerships, and innovation ecosystems necessary to redesign learning for the next generation.

Grounded in practice. Every idea the Collaborative pursues is tested with real districts before it's scaled — this is a network built by practitioners, for practitioners.

Where We're Headed: A Five-Year Vision

2031

By 2031, the LIFTtoFFS Learning Collaborative sees itself as a nationally recognized catalyst for educational transformation — helping Wisconsin become a leading example of what's possible when innovation, partnership, and purpose come together in service of learners. Districts move beyond incremental improvement into meaningful redesign: learning that is personalized, competency-based, relevant, and connected to the real world.

One milestone stands out: a statewide network of Innovation Coaching Centers housed within Wisconsin CESAs, bridging vision and implementation, and a cadre of highly skilled innovation coaches turning ideas into measurable outcomes for learners.

"We have proven that when diverse organizations unite around a shared vision, extraordinary things are possible. The LIFTtoFFS Learning Collaborative exists today as more than an organization. It is a movement."

Two Parts of One Movement

The LIFTtoFFS Learning Collaborative is not simply a professional learning organization. It is an educational intermediary and action-oriented think tank designed to bridge research, policy, practice, workforce needs, and emerging technologies to accelerate the redesign of education systems. It convenes visionary leaders who are willing to question traditional assumptions about schooling, in a safe and respectful leadership network that helps districts navigate political and public challenges together.

Learning Collaborative

EDUCATIONAL INTERMEDIARY

The network described in this booklet. The strategic arm of the initiative — securing national and global partnerships, advancing R&D in AI-enabled learning, and connecting leaders across education, industry, and community sectors.

Coaching Center

TEACHER & CLASSROOM LEVEL

A separate, complementary partnership **housed at CESA 4**, the Wisconsin educational service agency that delivers day-to-day coaching and professional development directly to teachers — putting the Four Core Experiences into daily practice to lift student engagement and achievement.

Districts can join the Collaborative on its own, or pair it with a Coaching Center partnership through CESA 4.

The Structural Change Leadership Series

A 12-MONTH THINK TANK CYCLE

This series is the curriculum for the Coalition for Redesigning Education: a monthly virtual think tank where district leaders come together to question, design, and prototype structural change, paired with a full-year cycle of individual coaching. Sessions are led by educational experts from across the country, and leaders meet once a month for a shared learning session; between sessions, 1-on-1 coaching helps each leader translate the topic into action inside their own district.

The Coalition for Redesigning Education moves leaders through four quarterly arcs — from foundation-setting to sustaining whole-system change — over nine monthly sessions and three summer breakout sessions during the Summer Retreat, building toward a genuine structural redesign of the current educational system rather than isolated classroom improvements.

#	SESSION TITLE	ARC
1	Leading From Compliance to Purpose: The Case for Structural Change	Q1 — Foundation & Vision
2	Where Are We? A Candid Audit of Your District's Readiness for Structural Change	Q1 — Foundation & Vision
3	Building a Safe Network: Navigating Political and Public Challenges Together	Q1 — Foundation & Vision
4	Beyond Seat Time: Competency-Based Grading, Reporting & Progressions	Q2 — Core Structures
5	Rewriting the Rules: Credit, Graduation Requirements & Scheduling	Q2 — Core Structures
6	Redefining the Educator's Role: From Deliverer to Designer, Advisor, Coach	Q2 — Core Structures
7	Funding the Future: Resourcing and Budgeting for Structural Change	Q3 — Resourcing & Partnership
8	Pathways to Impact: Formalizing Community and Industry Partnerships	Q3 — Resourcing & Partnership
9	Personal Success Plans: Operationalizing Personalization at Scale	Q3 — Resourcing & Partnership
Summer Retreat	Leading Through Resistance: Change Management for Whole-System Transformation	Q4 — Sustaining & Scaling
Summer Retreat	Telling Your Story: Data, Outcomes, and Public Advocacy	Q4 — Sustaining & Scaling
Summer Retreat	From Vision to Action: Building Your District's Phase 4 Roadmap	Q4 — Sustaining & Scaling

1-on-1 Coaching

Personalized coaching support for leaders participating in the Collective Innovation Leadership Network to reflect on implementation efforts, celebrate successes, identify growth opportunities, and strategically move innovation work forward within their organization.

Q1 — FOUNDATION & VISION

Building shared urgency, honest readiness, and a protected space for the political work ahead.

1 · Leading From Compliance to Purpose: The Case for Structural Change

Focus: Leaders reconnect to why the Collaborative exists — moving education from compliance-driven systems to purpose-driven ones — and name the gap between their district's current state and that vision.

Structural Change Connection: Sets the frame that this year's work is about redesigning systems — policy, funding, scheduling — not just improving classrooms.

2 · Where Are We? A Candid Audit of Your District's Readiness for Structural Change

Focus: Leaders complete a candid readiness assessment across personalized learning, emerging technology, and competency-based education, identifying which structural elements — grading, scheduling, credit, roles — are already shifting and which are still untouched.

Structural Change Connection: Creates a shared, honest baseline so the rest of the series can target each district's actual gaps rather than a generic checklist.

3 · Building a Safe Network: Navigating Political and Public Challenges Together

Focus: Leaders name the political and public pressures that structural change invites — school boards, families, staff, legislators — and establish norms for using the leadership network as a safe space to think through those challenges honestly.

Structural Change Connection: Protects the coming year's harder conversations; structural change fails when leaders carry political risk alone.

Q2 — REDESIGNING THE CORE STRUCTURES

Rewriting the policies and roles that currently protect the old system.

4 · Beyond Seat Time: Competency-Based Grading, Reporting & Progressions

Focus: Leaders examine how to move student assessment and reporting from seat-time and points to demonstrated mastery of academic and durable-skill competency progressions.

Structural Change Connection: Directly targets the commitment that student learning is measured by demonstrated mastery of competencies, not seat time or pace through curriculum.

5 · Rewriting the Rules: Credit, Graduation Requirements & Scheduling

Focus: Leaders work through the concrete policy mechanics — credit and graduation requirements, student scheduling, rolling enrollment — that must change for personalization and competency-based education to operate at the system level, not just the classroom level.

Structural Change Connection: The clearest structural session in the series — it asks leaders to bring an actual policy or board item back for revision.

6 · Redefining the Educator's Role: From Deliverer to Designer, Advisor, and Coach

Focus: Leaders explore how educator roles, responsibilities, and evaluation systems must shift as teachers become designers of learning experiences and advisors to student-owned goals.

Structural Change Connection: Connects HR, evaluation, and staffing structures — often the least-examined lever — to the district's future-ready vision.

Q3 — RESOURCING & PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPACT

Making structural change sustainable: dollars, partners, and personalized pathways.

7 · Funding the Future: Resourcing and Budgeting for Structural Change

Focus: Leaders map current budget and resource allocation against the priorities named in Sessions 4–6, and build a case for reallocating funding toward emerging technology, coaching, and innovation infrastructure.

Structural Change Connection: A district committed to structural redesign intentionally centers its system, identity, values, and budget around innovation and future-readiness. This session makes that budgetary shift concrete.

8 · Pathways to Impact: Formalizing Community and Industry Partnerships

Focus: Leaders design formal, not informal, partnership structures with local business, higher education, and community organizations that create applied, career-connected learning experiences for every student.

Structural Change Connection: Builds the district's own Pathways to Impact framework for turning partnerships into a durable, system-wide commitment.

9 · Personal Success Plans: Operationalizing Personalization at Scale

Focus: Leaders design the systems — data platforms, advisory structures, family communication — that let every student and family track progress on an individualized Personal Success Plan.

Structural Change Connection: Moves personalization from a classroom practice into a system-wide, trackable commitment.

Q4 — SUSTAINING & SCALING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Leading the change through resistance, proving its impact, and committing to what's next.

10 · Leading Through Resistance: Change Management for Whole-System Transformation

Focus: Leaders build change-leadership skills for the resistance and fatigue that structural change provokes among staff, families, and boards, using real scenarios from their own districts.

11 · Telling Your Story: Data, Outcomes, and Public Advocacy

Focus: Leaders learn to collect and publish student and staff outcome data, and to advocate publicly — with boards, media, and legislators — for the structural changes they're making.

12 · From Vision to Action: Building Your District's Roadmap

Focus: Capstone session. Each leader presents a one-year structural change roadmap, drawing on all eleven prior sessions, that names specific policy, funding, staffing, and partnership commitments for the coming year.

Why This Model Is Different

LIFTtoFFS was designed for the full range of public school systems, not just those with exceptional capacity, funding, or community capital. Our work assumes the realities superintendents face every day: limited time, competing initiatives, political complexity, and uneven readiness across schools. Rather than piloting innovation in isolation, the Collaborative focuses on coherent, system-level change that can scale.

AI as a Tier 1 tool

Emerging technology and AI fluency are built into the core instructional model, not bolted on as an elective add-on.

Built for existing districts

No new school to build or charter to file — the Collaborative works inside the public system your community already trusts.

Bifurcated structure

A national nonprofit drives partnerships, advocacy, and R&D, while the Coaching Center delivers day-to-day support — so district-level work is never shortchanged by national growth.

Rural-tested, nationally scaled

Proven first in rural Western Wisconsin districts, with a path to a national community of system leaders navigating the same challenges and goals.

Membership & Investment

Membership is not about purchasing a program. It's about joining a collaborative think tank and living ecosystem of system leaders co-developing how emerging technology, durable skill development, and competency-based structures come together in real public school systems.

SINGLE SEAT

\$3,500

Per administrator or district leader, per year

ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

\$1,000

Per additional registration / team member

Membership is priced per district leadership team, not per district — bring as many voices from your team as your budget allows.

Getting Started

Districts join the Collaborative once a year, with new cohorts forming ahead of the Fall Innovation Forum. Reach out any time — most conversations start with a short call to see if the fit is right for your team.

1. Schedule an intro call with the Collaborative team
2. Identify your district's leadership team and seats
3. Confirm membership ahead of the Fall Innovation Forum

[Submit an Interest Form →](#)

CONTACT

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