

**NEXT GENERATION
LEARNING
CHALLENGES**

BIANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2024-2025



Mission, Purpose, and Strategies



Our Mission

NGLC empowers school communities to reimagine and transform the learning experience. Next gen learning schools create brave spaces where each student can develop the academics, life skills, wellness, and citizenship they need to thrive in and positively impact a diverse and rapidly changing world.

Born in September 2011

Our Purpose



Each student has what they need to fulfill their greatest potential and contribute to building a just, equitable, and sustainable world.

Our Strategies



- Catalyzing innovation through educator-driven research and development (pgs. 3-4)
- Designing and supporting educator-led communities of practice that reflect all of the attributes of next gen learning for students (pgs. 5-11)
- Amplifying and connecting the voices of innovative educators to inform and shape the direction of school transformation nationally and locally (pgs. 12-14)



Human-Centered AI for Learner-Centered Education

Our Collective Shift initiative convened eight mission-aligned partners with complementary strengths spanning learner-centered education, K–12 human-centered change, and AI-enabled application development. The launch year focused on building shared infrastructure through a “forming and norming” phase that established partnership norms, processes, and an asset map, alongside initial Horizon Three (H3) learning experience criteria, a draft landscape of K–12 transformation tasks and applications, and two multi-day retreats in Chicago and Denver. H3 refers to a future-ready education ecosystem, moving beyond our current “H1” goals, processes, and structures, aligning learners’ intrinsic interests with next generation approaches that develop agency and durable, transferable skills.

Partners co-developed a clear vision and priorities to support fundraising, securing a \$50,000 Moonshot Award from Remake Learning. Partner-driven innovation yielded early prototype applications supporting learning mindsets, H3 professional learning design, and competency progression building, now freely available at Collective-Shift.org, with additional tools in development. The Collective also activated a value network of more than a dozen partner dyads and triads functioning as micro-labs for exploration, piloting, and shared upskilling. Field-building efforts included supporting a 24-part Getting Smart H3 blog series—widely cross-posted and anchored by a high-impact call to action on AI in public education—alongside expanded outreach through the Collective Shift website, a session at the 2025 ASU GSV Summit, and early services piloting with the Colorado Education Initiative and school partners, informing plans among Shift partners to support H3-aligned schools nationally.



Communities of Practice



Overview

In 2024 and 2025, NGLC broadened its reach across communities throughout the United States, deepening its vision to transform student outcomes and life prospects by advancing next generation learning. Learning Excursions and Bravely have been central to these efforts.

Major Milestones Achieved

01 Learning Excursions

Explored a variety of learning spaces: in Connecticut, Vermont, Kentucky, Arizona, and D.C.—next gen learning lives everywhere! A new **\$750K grant** from the Barr Foundation extended these explorations through 2025.

02 Bravely

Disbursed **\$100K in grants** across nine districts to engage research-based strategies for change leaning on our Transformation Design framework.

Learning Excursions (LEs)

NGLC Learning Excursions that are funded by the Barr Foundation enable educators and their partners from communities across New England to visit nationally groundbreaking, next gen personalized learning school models. On these Learning Excursions, participants deepen their knowledge of next gen learning with an eye toward applying the new knowledge to their own context/model design to strengthen teaching and learning. Participants see school models in action that will startle and inspire them to reimagine what's possible in their own communities. These excursions also support deep connections within the community teams, as well as with like-minded peers in other New England communities.



CAREFULLY CURATED THEMES

How **students' stories** can drive innovation by making sure that every student is seen and known and by trying new approaches to learning for students who are often overlooked, leading to genuine transformation of high school, learning, and student success.

(Connecticut)

How genuine **youth-adult partnership** both reflects and can lead to genuine transformation of schools, learning, and outcomes for students.

(Vermont)

How **deeper learning**—mastering core academic content, thinking critically and solving complex problems, communicating effectively, working collaboratively, learning how to learn, and developing academic mindsets—can lead to genuine transformation of schools, learning, and outcomes for students.

(Kentucky)

How a **coherent vision for learning**, a districtwide learning culture for all, and innovative, **intentional teaching and learning** approaches can lead to genuine transformation of learning in a large comprehensive high school.

(Arizona)

How next gen learning can be specifically designed for **emergent multilingual learners** to learn language skills and academic content at the same time, providing them with high-quality instruction, high academic expectations, and the support they need to be successful.

(D.C.)



Lasting Impact of Excursions

"I had such deep and meaningful conversations, learned a ton from other educators and students, and felt my passion for education rejuvenated (March is a tough time of year—every year, so I appreciated this so much!)" -Teacher

"I found it exciting to feel heard as a parent, and it was a bonding experience with my son. I feel he seems to see the importance of education, and how I'm invested in his future success." -Parent



"Not only did I learn great content and experience inspirational spaces, but I also got to connect with my own school members in more authentic ways. I think we all appreciate each other's quirks, talents, and interests a lot more." -Teacher

"Feeling the culture of these schools and seeing the initiatives we've been trying work so well would be inspiring to those who aren't bought in or can't imagine how these kinds of shifts can bring big cultural change." -Teacher



"It was an incredible experience as a student. I hope that every student at my school will be able to experience a trip like I did. I love the things I saw and the people I met!" -Student



"Having designated time away from school was hugely helpful in focusing on this work, and I think being fully immersed in the learning experience helped me really visualize how this could work at [my district]." -School Administrator

"The main takeaway is that the ENTIRE school district lives the vision of agency in their teachers and students. This has been very rare in my career as a teacher. The SUSD is very aligned in their shared goal of creating student agency in their students and sees it through from K-12!" -Teacher



"I was fond of the student voice at Desert View High, hearing them speak gave me more comfortability to address any situations or ideas I had to better our school. It truly was a great experience, all of the friendships and collaboration throughout this experience was phenomenal. We found a lot of ideas and solutions to better our school. Thank you!!" -Student

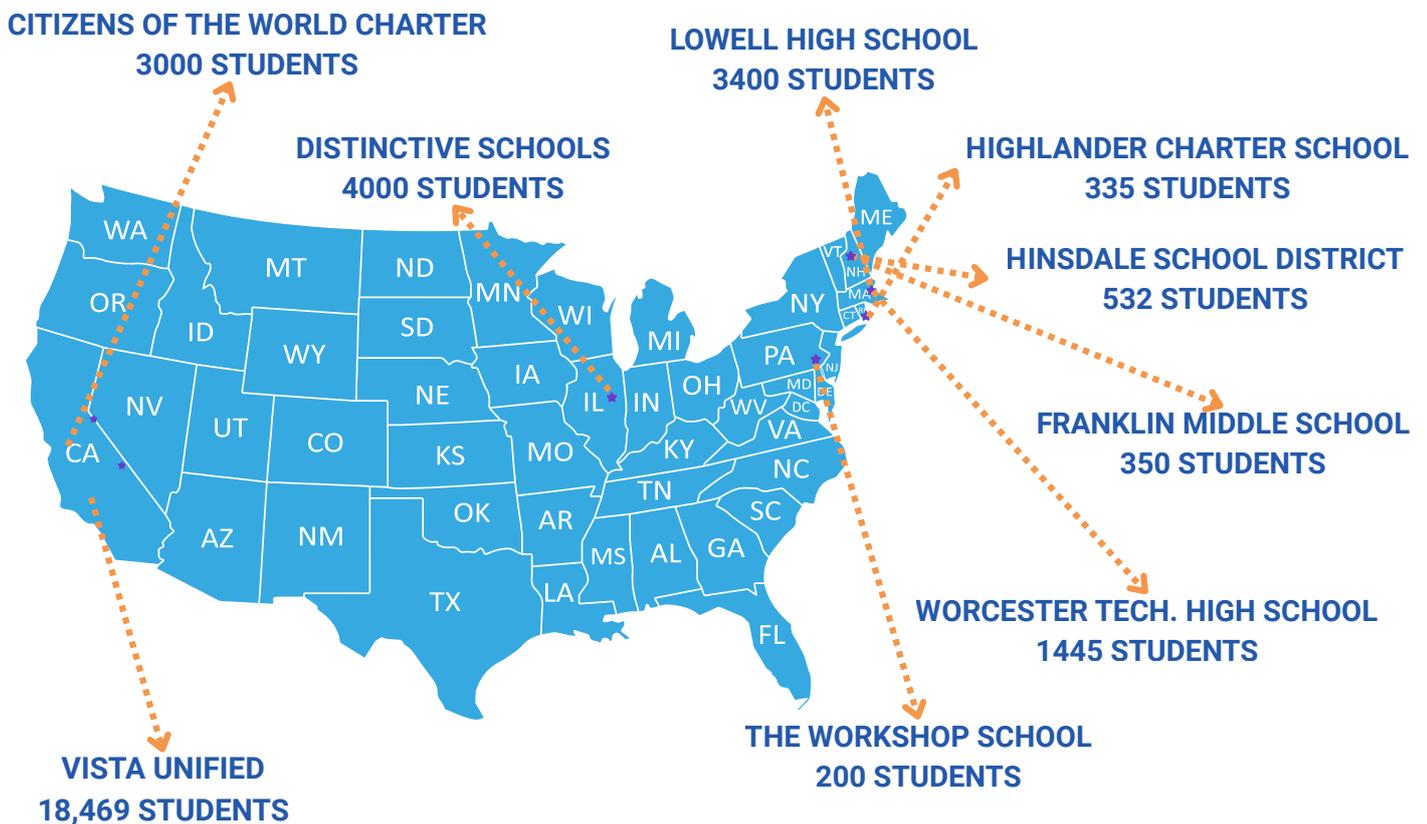
"Having students involved in this work really reframed my thinking around planning. It was so eye opening to see how much they understand and how much they pay attention. It was the best part of this experience." -District Administrator



"The amount of knowledge and perspective you bring back to school is immense! It makes me happy that we can implement such beautiful ideas into the future of our school." -Student

Bravely

A reimagined vision for children should serve as the throughline for all education work. NGLC's Bravely uniquely helps school districts bring that conviction to life. Bravely is grounded in the principle of deep coherence—the alignment of vision, learning model, operating norms, and the processes districts use to catalyze and sustain meaningful change. NGLC supports teams in tackling their most complex challenges through an approach called Liberatory Transformation Design (LTD). LTD integrates NGLC's research on Transformation Design—focused on what must change to achieve enduring, fundamental transformation—with the National Equity Project's liberatory mindsets, which emphasize how we show up to do this essential work.

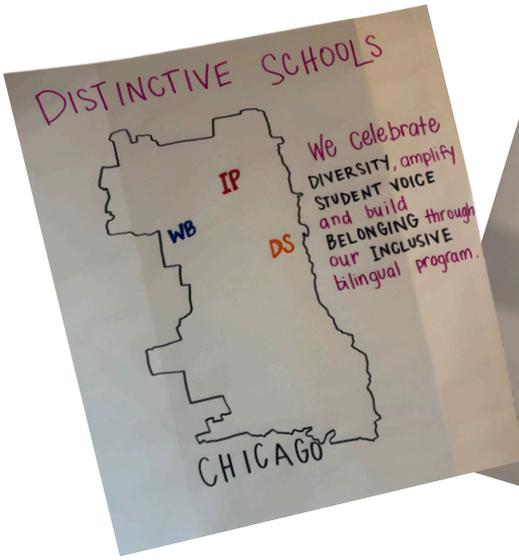


Bravely Tools

NGLC expanded its Transformation Design research to better support schools and districts as they engaged in Bravely. These tools give Bravely schools and districts a lens by which to measure growth in selected transformation areas! (*Invite & Empower Stakeholders*, in the sample tool provided below, is an action within the Activate Change Agents practice.)

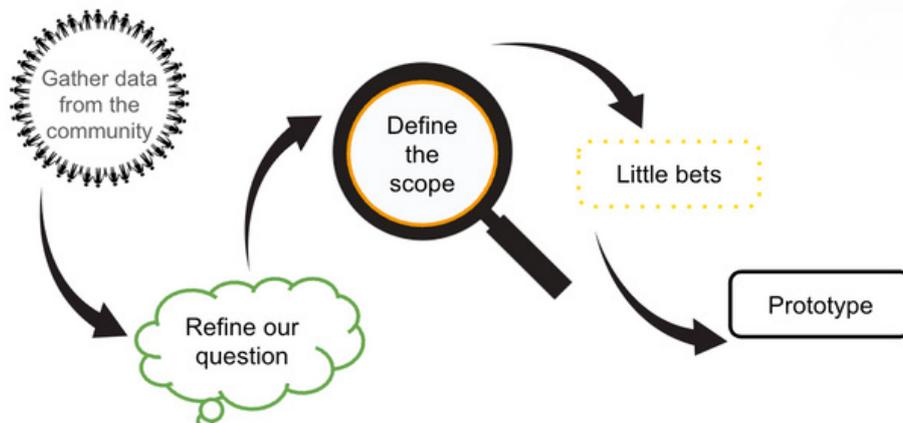


1.1 INVITE AND EMPOWER STAKEHOLDERS	
<p>The extent to which staff, students, and stakeholders are involved in, own, and lead transformation initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In what ways are staff, students, and stakeholders in your school/district community involved in the learning transformation? To what extent do they own and lead the transformation?</i> <i>Who are the most active change-makers in your community? Which groups or segments of your school/district community do they represent? In what ways do these active change-makers invite others to join them?</i> <i>Whose voices are missing from your school/district's learning transformation? How might your school/district community invite and empower these stakeholders to own and lead the learning transformation?</i> 	Engages a wide range of stakeholders and ensures their meaningful involvement in decision-making and implementation.
	Implements clear, consistent, and inclusive communication strategies to keep all stakeholders well-informed and actively engaged throughout the transformation process.
	Leads robust capacity-building initiatives that equip stakeholders with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary for meaningful involvement in the transformation.
	Changes and decisions are paused when it's made aware they will result in excluding or disempowering stakeholders in the change.
	Establishes and enforces school/district policies that ensure consistent engagement of varied community members in change processes.



Bravely @ Workshop: A Year of Learning

The Workshop School is one of the communities participating in Bravely. In their first year, the team of teachers and school leaders worked through a design cycle to make moves that shifted learning for students. The artifacts from their experience displayed here summarize their work and outcomes. Starting with a Brave Question to guide their effort, they gathered input from their community to refine their question and define the scope of solutions to answer their question. They ultimately took an instructional lens on the school's exhibitions of learning. They tried "little bets" and a prototype that resulted in Workshop students building deeper awareness of the competencies they were developing in their courses. Their work also supported more coherent practices among adults. The Workshop School is continuing to be guided by their Brave Question in a second year of Bravely!



If we...

- Build awareness of Essential Questions for each project
- Use common language to discuss skills we're learning

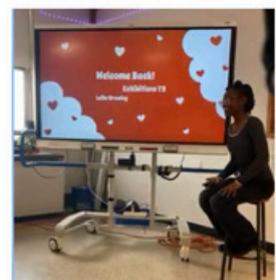
Then we will see...

- More learning
- More authentic demonstration of learning in end-of-term exhibitions



Through...

- Thoughtful and effective project/unit planning
- Teacher moves



Brave Question

How do we develop school wide expectations, build awareness of their progression and embed and invite stakeholders to those expectations?

Lasting Impact of Bravely

“

This work really pushed me to listen deeply, and to see our school as it is rather than what it was or what it might be. I needed to let go of some assumptions in that process. It also made me see the need to help our team reconnect to the mission.

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My perspective changed because I feel more confident in my role at the school, and Bravely meetings left me feeling charged up that we were making the moves we feel necessary instead of just sitting around complaining, waiting for someone else to do something about it.

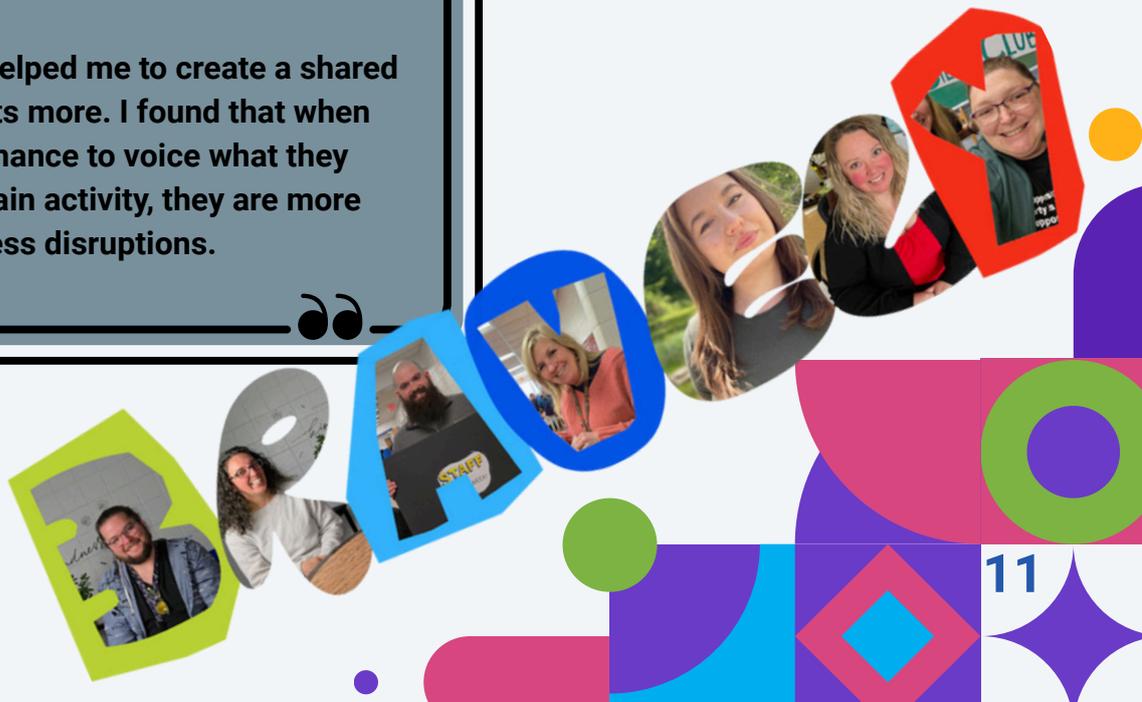
”



“

My Bravely experience helped me to create a shared purpose with my students more. I found that when students are given the chance to voice what they want/expect from a certain activity, they are more engaged and there are less disruptions.

”



Amplifying and Connecting Voices



Overview

NGLC is committed to providing space for next generation educators and their partners to share stories of innovative practice and the strategies they are using to transform learning for students and communities. These voices span rural, urban, and suburban contexts—educators doing right by kids across the United States. Our community is defining trends on the future of learning, addressing chronic absenteeism, multilingual learners, special education, artificial intelligence, and more.

Major Milestones Achieved

01 Record Blogging

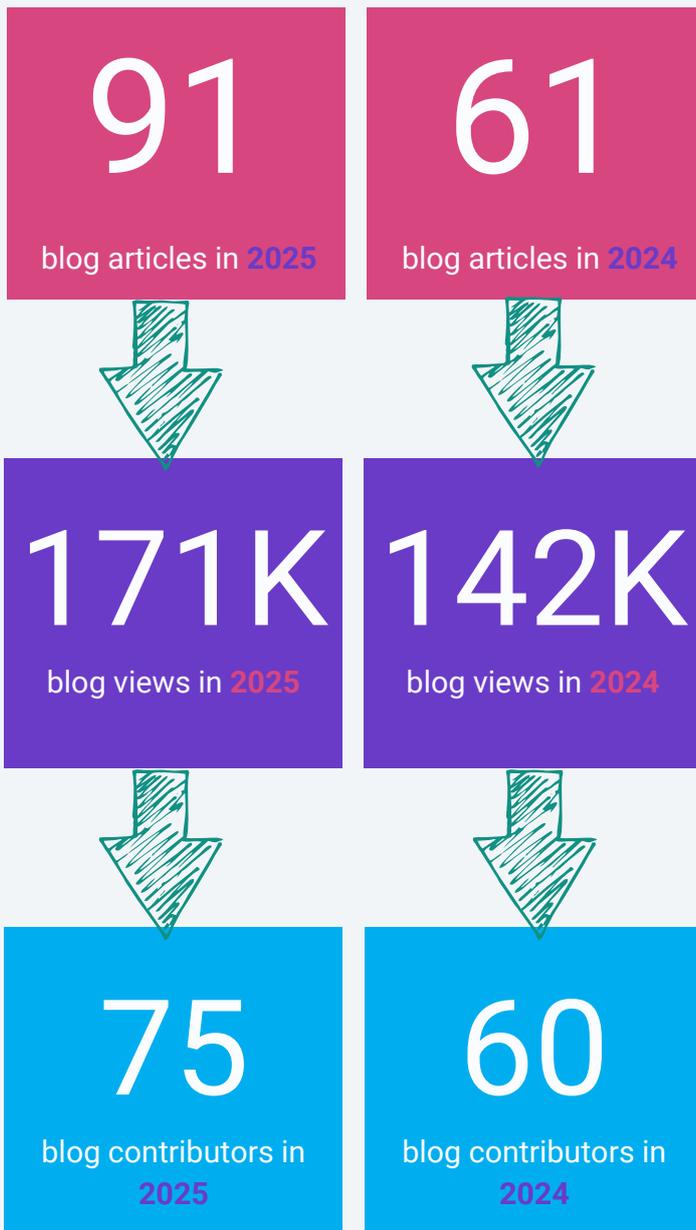
In 2024 and 2025, the Next Gen Learning Blog reached new heights, with a record number of articles published, a broader representation of voices, and unprecedented readership.

02 Broader, Deeper Impact

Spanning geographies from Pennsylvania to San Diego and topics from restorative practices to AI and youth agency, the NGLC network is influencing the national dialogue on innovative teaching and learning.

Raising Our Voices in '24 & '25

The Next Gen Learning Blog features practitioners who collectively serve thousands of students across the country. Through their stories, we explore how next generation learning is experienced at every level nationwide.



Growth in Followers

59%

Growth in Engagement

35%

Growth in Post Reactions

67%

Prominent Issues Explored by Bloggers

- Restorative Practices
- Addressing Chronic Absenteeism
- Equitable Student-Centered Learning
- AI for Next Gen Learning
- Feedback to Improve Teaching and Learning
- Next Gen Learning & Special Education
- Rethinking Multi-Lingual Learner Education

Standout Stories

Connection before Content: Operationalizing the 80/20 Rule of Restorative Practices

"I recently heard a colleague state that a school has two moral documents—their budget and their schedule. CBHS makes their value of relationships plain in their master schedule. Crew meets every day for 30 minutes." -Kate Merrigan, New England Educator



How to Teach Students Who Aren't There

"Upon reflection I had come to realize that, if I taught every student the same lesson every day, I'd always leave my absent students behind. But what if I just stopped doing that? Here's what I did." -Robert Barnett, Modern Classrooms Project

How to Nurture Diverse and Inclusive Classrooms through Play

"By using play to explore and celebrate diversity, educators can foster a more inclusive and accepting community among students, allowing for a safe space for student-led discussions about their understanding and experiences with these complex topics." -Rebecca Horrace, Playful Insights Consulting, and Laura Dattile, PlanToys USA



Student-Centered AI Toolkit

"In this toolkit, you will find strategies and examples for using AI tools to design learning that looks more like the real-world, full of exploration, collaboration, creativity, and problem solving." -Chris Unger, Northeastern University

NGLC in the Field!

We helped our network of next gen learning educators and their partners share their stories of innovation and next gen learning at important field-building events.

- **What Do Educators Want from Techpreneurs? And Vice Versa? Let's Let It All Out.** ASU+GSV Summit, April 2024
- **Human-Centered AI for Learner-Centered Education,** ASU+GSV Summit, April 2025
- **What Education Does Each Child in Pennsylvania Need/Deserve in the 21st Century?** 3 Forums, April 2025
- **The Moth* Returns to Aurora: Deep, Heartfelt Stories Worth Re-Telling, from the Edges of Transformational Change in K-12 Schools,** FullScale Symposium, October 2025

Our Advisory Council

The NGLC Advisory Council works with the NGLC team on the mission and programmatic direction of the organization. It provides strategic thinking and planning on organization-wide priorities. Members acts as ambassadors for the work and vision of NGLC.



Dr. Ulcca Joshi Hansen
Independent Consultant



Angela Perry
Founder at 4th Dimension
Leaders



Jonathan Tiongco
Founding Principal and
Executive Director at
Alliance MIT



Izzy Fitzgerald
Student Member



Upcoming Opportunity



Spring 2026 NGLC Learning Excursion to Casco Bay High School!

WHAT: Join Next Generation Learning Challenges to observe high-quality, innovative instruction at Casco Bay High School in Portland, Maine. See how project-based learning, proficiency-based grading, and student advisory work to create a coherent learning environment built on rigor, relevance, and relationships. Exchange strategies with the school's faculty and fellow participants, and apply what you learn and the tools and resources you pick up to improve instructional practices and student outcomes.

See teaching and learning in action at Casco Bay HS, focusing in particular on proficiency-based grading within their expeditionary learning instructional model.

Go "behind the scenes" with Casco Bay HS's school leaders, faculty, and students to understand their experience and gather resources, strategies, and tools that make their approach to teaching and learning successful.

Participate in workshops to connect what you observe at Casco Bay HS to the opportunities and challenges in your classroom and school.

Create an action plan and an artifact to share what you learn and begin to make changes in your instructional practice.

Have fun! Experience professional learning that is filled with joy, wonder, hope, and connection.



Early Bird:
Due January 31st

**Max: 25
participants!**

For more information - <https://nglc-2026.eventbrite.com>



THANK YOU!

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