



The Learning Breakthrough Series: Making critical connections in practice, policy, public narrative, and strategy

A two-year deep-dive community-based learning and action process

Quick Summary

Pioneered by the [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](http://www.healthcareimprovement.org) in the health field, IDEA has adapted this community-based research and action model to the education landscape beginning with our initial LBS in 2013-2015. Over the course of two-years, teams of educators, youth, and community leaders working on distinct yet overlapping projects collaborate and learn alongside one another in order to most effectively create and sustain transformative educational change.

Why?

Change efforts in communities often move forward in isolation from one another due to resource competition and a lack of time and support for collaborative efforts. At the same time, conferences and professional development opportunities are abundant yet are often one-time experiences without support for ongoing change. The LBS model aligns numerous community partners around a shared vision, providing a space for partners to raise up and share learning while working collaboratively to create, implement, and refine plans over time.

An LBS provides the connection, facilitation, and ongoing coaching necessary to implement and sustain effective practices and changes across multiple partners.

How it works

The Learning Breakthrough Series is framed around a guiding question and topic developed by the community and partners involved. Each team works within a specific focus area (e.g. narrative change, community school development) to address the guiding question. Over the course of the LBS, two-day **Learning Sessions** alternate with 3-6 month **Action Periods**. At the Learning Sessions, teams learn from and with one another and resource experts to develop and later refine their plans to address the key question. During the Action Periods, teams implement their plans, monitor the impact on their schools and communities, and stay in close contact with other teams and the resource experts for support. The series concludes with a public summit where teams share their findings and discuss implications with a broad audience of educators, community members, policy-makers, and the media.



This chart provides a snapshot of a two-year LBS with six-month action periods. Six month action periods are best for an LBS that works across multiple locations, while a community-specific LBS works better with Actions Periods that are closer to 3-4 months long alongside more frequent Learning Sessions to bring the community together. Such a process then involves 6-8 Learning Sessions and Action Periods over 2 years.

