Student-Centered Learning Collaborative

The Student-Centered Learning Collaborative is a new collaborative offering from CCSSO for the 2019-2020 program year. This collaborative is designed to support states committed to increasing access to equitable, student-centered learning through systems-level change to develop life-long learners prepared for success in college, careers, and life. CCSSO is committed to working alongside states to develop education systems that encourage and inspire student-centered learning, including personalized learning, competency-based education, and social-emotional learning and academic development. CCSSO believes this work must be anchored in equity and have an unapologetic focus on increasing access for students who have been historically underserved.

What is student-centered learning?

Student-centered learning is sometimes referred to as personalized learning. Both student-centered learning and personalized learning environments are designed to give students greater ownership of their learning and aim to tailor learning opportunities according to individual learner readiness, strengths, needs, and interests. Student-centered learning environments may include individualized learning plans, performance-based assessments, learner-driven content, project-based learning, progression based on demonstration of mastery, and student portfolios of work, to name a few examples. By putting the emphasis on individual learner needs and assets, student-centered learning has tremendous potential as a lever to achieve equity.

However, even with all of the promise that student-centered learning presents to level the playing field for all students, it’s critically important to ensure all students are held to high and rigorous standards, have robust and applied learning and assessment opportunities, and graduate ready for college, career, and life after high school in a timely manner.

Student-centered learning is a powerful mechanism to prepare each and every child for the future of work and post-secondary education opportunities.

Personalized, competency-based education refers to a system of education where students engage in student-centered learning and progress based on demonstration of mastery. Personalized, competency-based education can also be referred to as mastery-education, mastery-based learning, proficiency-based learning or performance-based learning. CCSSO and iNACOL identified the following core components of competency-based learning in 2011:

- Students advance upon mastery.
- Competencies include explicit, measurable, transferable learning objectives that empower students.
- Assessment is meaningful and a positive learning experience for students.
- Students receive timely, differentiated support based on their individual learning needs.
- Learning outcomes emphasize competencies that include application and creation of knowledge, along with the development of important skills and dispositions.

2019-2020 Collaborative Goals

The Student-Centered Learning Collaborative will provide a forum for states to collaborate within and across states and receive targeted support to plan and implement strategies to increase access to
equitable, student-centered learning. CCSSO will support states in setting a vision for student-centered learning grounded in equity that drives toward a comprehensive view of what students need to be successful in a changing economy. With support from CCSSO and national experts, states will develop an action plan aligned to their unique vision, receive targeted support to implement key components of the action plan, and engage in a progress-monitoring process with data at the subgroup level to track implementation and communicate effectively with stakeholders.

- Though SEAs are at different places with their work on student-centered learning, each state team should be able to achieve the following goals over the year informed by our shared Equity Commitments: Develop a **state vision for student-centered learning** grounded in equity that drives toward a comprehensive view of what students need to be successful in a changing economy
- Set at least **one specific, measurable, time bound equity goal** around increasing access to student-centered learning for students of color, students in poverty and other students historically underserved by the education system
- Develop **comprehensive state strategies to increase access** to equitable student-centered learning including aligning SEA staff and structures to support the strategies
- Establish mechanisms and remove barriers to **support local education agencies in implementation** of student-centered learning
- Engage in a **progress-monitoring process** with data at subgroup level to **track implementation progress** and communicate effectively with stakeholders

CCSSO staff will consult with a small group of select advisors from key national organizations such as the Center for Assessment, Center for Innovation in Education, Excel in Ed, iNACOL and KnowledgeWorks to inform the work of the Collaborative for the 2019-20 program year.

**Biography of Advisor:**

**Anne Bowles** joined the Council of Chief State School Officers in October 2018 and serves as Program Director, Student-Centered Learning. Anne is responsible for providing overall direction, coordination, and supervision for the Council’s strategy on student-centered learning, including social and emotional learning and academic development and conditions for learning. Prior to joining CCSSO, Anne served in a number of roles on the policy, advocacy, and leadership teams at Achieve, a nonprofit committed to working with states to prepare students for success in college and career. While at Achieve, Anne managed the day-to-day activities of two networks of state leaders – one focused on advancing competency-based education and another focused on advocating for college- and career-ready standards. Prior to Achieve, she served as a Policy and Outreach Associate at the Institute for Higher Education Policy and as a Program Associate with the American Youth Policy Forum. Anne began her career in education as middle school teacher in New York City. Anne earned her bachelor's in sociology from the University of Michigan and master's in education from Pace University.

**CCSSO Liaison:**

**Ryan MacDonald** serves as Senior Program Associate on the Student-Centered Learning team at the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Ryan joined CCSSO in 2015 as part of the now Student-Centered Learning team and Education Data and Information Systems team. As part of the Student-Centered Learning team, he manages the programmatic and technical support to the previous
Innovation Lab Network (ILN) and now CCSSO’s Student-Centered Learning Collaborative. He is committed to supporting the implementation and scaling of student-centered learning especially for historically underserved students. He received her B.A. in Politics from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Ryan originates from Portland, Maine.