MAPLE Consortium Overview

The Massachusetts Personalized Learning Edtech Consortium (MAPLE Consortium) is a concerted effort to further the growth of personalized learning in K-12 public schools in the Commonwealth.

LearnLaunch Institute is partnering with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to create this public-private consortium that is aligned with the Department’s strategic priorities to strengthen curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and to use data and technology to support student performance.

The mission for MAPLE is to accelerate and scale up personalized learning, enabled by technology in K-12 public education. MAPLE will connect schools with necessary resources – a strong peer learning community, professional learning, digital tools, funding strategies, and a rich evidence base – to create thoughtful and innovative new models of teaching and learning to improve student engagement and achievement. MAPLE is a collaborative effort to organize and align current initiatives to be more coherent.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING IN MASSACHUSETTS

Personalized learning seeks to accelerate student learning by tailoring the instructional environment – what, when, how and where students learn – to address the individual needs, skills and interests of each student.

Within a framework of established curriculum standards and high expectations, personalized learning motivates students to reach their goals. Students take ownership of their own learning and develop deep, personal connections with each other, their teachers and other adults.

Technology is necessary to implement personalized learning effectively, affordably, and at significant scale. Teachers leverage technology to gain detailed and timely knowledge of their students that guides instruction. Effective use of technology allows teachers and students to focus more on creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

THE WORK

MAPLE will bring coherence to the present constellation of efforts by connecting K-12 school districts across the innovation spectrum. It will enable districts to learn more from each other, provide resources that strengthen local models, and nurture the discovery of new ideas to transform learning and teaching. MAPLE will connect and educate practitioners, allowing them to discover new insights. It will also provide an important forum for policy leadership and action.

To accomplish this important work MAPLE will:

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Conduct a landscape analysis to inventory practices, approaches and models that support personalized learning in the Commonwealth.

Recommend a framework for moving to personalized learning, and identify the most pressing needs to accomplish that goal.

Connect practitioners in peer learning communities, identify tools for their most pressing needs, and facilitate planning workshops for education leaders and other key stakeholders.

Link districts and schools with researchers who are seeking to discover what approaches are successful, and what conditions best foster personalized learning.

Provide frequent opportunities for districts and schools to share their practices and form long-standing professional networks.

Use the web and social media to share these insights and make them accessible.

Provide a forum for policy leadership and action.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will use its bully pulpit to define what “personalized learning” means for Mass K-12, while receiving practical policy guidance, informed by practicing educators. The Department’s interest in and support for personalized learning will generate investment to support districts in their implementations.

**LEARNLAUNCH: UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO ADDRESS PERSONALIZED LEARNING**

Founded in the fall of 2012, LearnLaunch has over the past five years established itself as the New England hub for education innovators who see the potential for digital technologies to improve education outcomes. LearnLaunch believes that edtech is a critical component of achieving this vision at scale. The LearnLaunch education innovation ecosystem includes educators, entrepreneurs, learners, investors, and industry affiliates. LearnLaunch is committed to expanding access to learning that is engaging, personalized, and effective.

LearnLaunch’s mission, values and strategic direction align with the goals of the MAPLE Consortium. LearnLaunch’s role in MAPLE fulfills its own mission, by helping to build a community of educators in the Commonwealth who are engaged in personalized learning. This is not a side project; this is core to what LearnLaunch is about.

**PARTNERS, STAKEHOLDERS, AND MEMBERSHIP**

LearnLaunch Institute and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education believe that the work of the MAPLE Consortium is critical. This partnership raises the importance of personalized learning driven by the thoughtful use of educational technology, and shows that the Department intends to support educators moving more significantly in that direction.

Other key stakeholders will be members or partners of the consortium:

- School Districts that are currently moving to personalized learning through blended learning, such as Natick, Burlington, Beverly, and others;
- School Districts interested in learning more about how to move to personalized learning;
- Professional organizations such as MASS, MassCUE, and MASC;

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School support and technical assistance organizations such as CCE and NGLC; Researchers at higher education institutions such as Harvard CPRE and MIT Office of Digital Learning; and Providers such as Future Ready and WGBH, and many others.

Funders such as Nellie Mae and the Barr Foundation are also key partners in driving this work.

There will be two levels of membership for school districts, based on their commitment to personalized learning. A “General MAPLE District” membership will be for districts interested in learning more about personalized learning and how to begin planning and implementing it in their schools. An “Accelerating MAPLE District” membership will be offered to districts that are currently focused on moving to blended and personalized learning as a key priority in teaching and learning. Information on MAPLE Consortium District membership is contained in the MAPLE Consortium Invitation and Memorandum of Understanding.

SUCCESS AND HOW IT IS ACHIEVED

Success will see personalized learning grow from its "nascent" stage in the Commonwealth, to acceptance as a key component for improving school performance and student growth.

The MAPLE Consortium plan includes several milestones for Year 1.

- Completion of a Landscape Analysis
- 6-10 Accelerating MAPLE districts deeply engaged in personalized learning initiatives
- 30 General MAPLE districts interested in learning more and undertaking first steps.

Over three years, MAPLE will determine how many schools are technically ready for personalized learning, which are the exemplar districts and schools, and what the steps and practices are to move to personalized learning. MAPLE will be investigating the use of various measures of success for personalized learning, such as - changes in educator practice, and student engagement, achievement, and experience.

LAUNCH DATE

The MAPLE Consortium will launch on December 14, 2016. More details will soon be available.