



# Curiosity Works™: Pathways to School Improvement and Innovation

*Bringing research, practice, and the joy of learning to classrooms*

A comprehensive suite of professional learning sessions, consulting services, and publications from McREL to spark and strengthen teachers' and students' natural curiosity, creating innovative schools and inspiring lifelong learners.



STRATEGY



TRAINING



COACHING



*Helping educators flourish by turning research into solutions that transform teaching, learning, and leading.*



## Curiosity leads to engagement and success

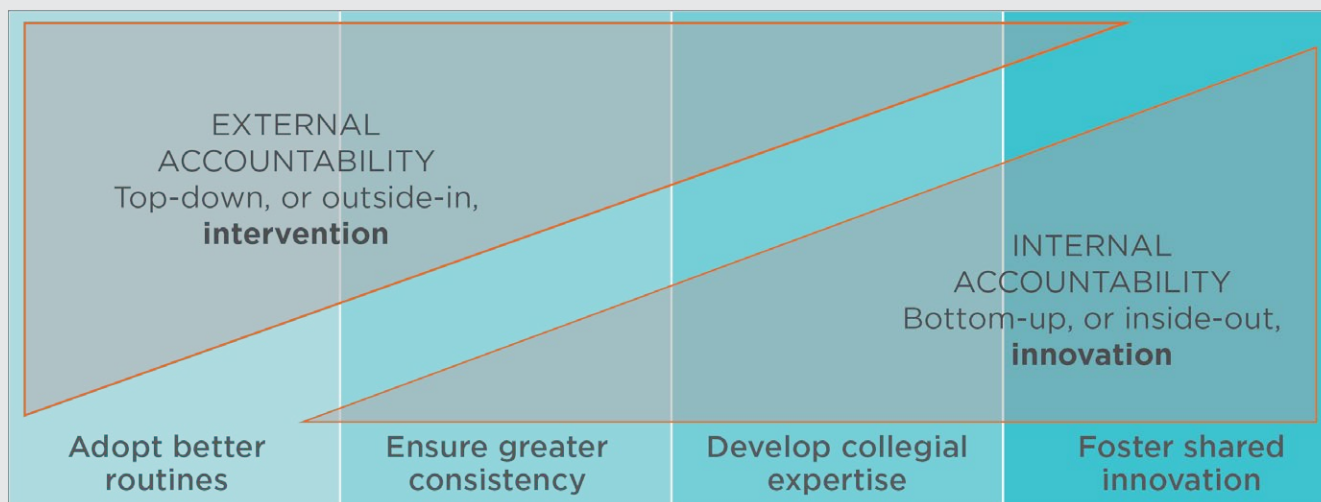
What if all our students came to school eager to learn, self-motivated, and passionate? What if they were, in a word, *curious*? And what if we could also unleash *educators'* professional curiosity, tapping into the yearning professionals feel not just to survive, but to thrive in what we do? Wouldn't our classrooms be happier and more productive?

We think they would. Our Curiosity Works consulting services, professional learning sessions, and publications can help you and your students explore the motivating power of curiosity.

Grounded in McREL's research-based What Matters Most® framework, our approach walks school communities through phases of transformation, from ensuring readiness to building a purposeful community. Some schools will progress straight through, while others will move in and out of phases throughout their improvement journey, depending on where they want to focus. Curiosity Works is for *all* schools—from those struggling to improve to those looking to raise the bar through innovative, learner-centered practices.

## Curiosity works everywhere, with all schools

*School contexts vary, yet the Curiosity Works stages of development for school innovation look remarkably similar from school to school.*



## A unique new approach to school improvement

Curiosity Works takes a strategically different approach than other school improvement programs and services:

- ❖ It identifies and leverages bright spots, rather than focusing on deficits.
- ❖ It has McREL's thoroughly researched, practice-proven *What Matters Most* framework at its core.
- ❖ It situates change in the classroom, where the greatest impact can occur.
- ❖ It pays attention to the interpersonal and organizational dynamics of change.

# McREL's Curiosity Works Suite of Services

*Our client partnerships are affordable, genuine, collaborative, and fully customized to leverage your local knowledge and expertise.*

## ◆ Overview of Curiosity Works

*1-day onsite professional learning session for school and district leaders*

- ▶ Learn why curiosity is an important lever for learning and how to cultivate it in teachers, leaders, and learners.
- ▶ Learn to use instructional rounds to find and leverage bright spots.
- ▶ Discover the power of peer coaching for school improvement.
- ▶ Practice using an initiative planning template to articulate next steps for improvement.

## ◆ Getting Started with Curiosity Works

*2- or 3-day onsite professional learning session for leadership teams*

- ▶ Articulate and strengthen your school's core values, mission, and vision.
- ▶ Engage in a data review process that focuses on bright spots as well as opportunities for growth.
- ▶ Establish a focus for improvement or innovation, and identify high-leverage strategies for action.
- ▶ Draft a peer coaching plan.
- ▶ Identify leadership actions to support implementation of change initiatives.

## ◆ Maintaining momentum with coaching and ongoing support

- ▶ Once a school begins its improvement and innovation journey with Curiosity Works, we offer ongoing support to school leadership teams and entire faculties with customized professional learning sessions.
- ▶ We can provide a variety of coaching services, from online check-ins to multi-day onsite visits.

## ◆ Measuring what works

- ▶ You'll want to know if your school improvement efforts are making a difference. We can help with an extra set of eyes on your performance data, informing deeper professional learning.
- ▶ Our surveys will help you gauge progress in areas such as data use, school culture, and trust.
- ▶ Our online platform, EmpowerEd, can make it simple for you to collect and review data about implementation of instructional practices.

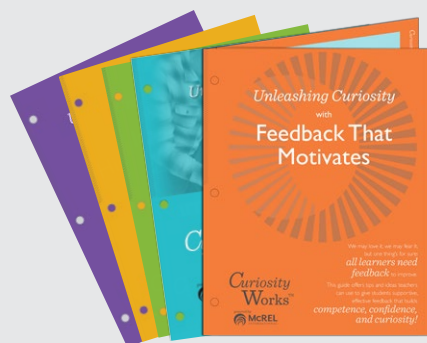
**Contact us today to boost curiosity in your school or system!**

# Curiosity Works books and resources

*Tap into McREL's knowledge on research-based best practices to get practical guidance on how to spark educators' and students' curiosity and increase achievement.*

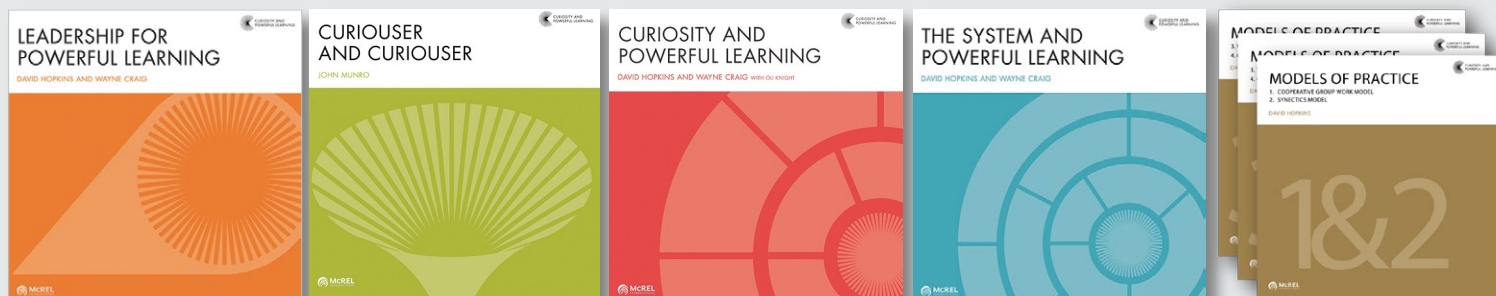
## Unleashing Curiosity quick guide series

This series of 8-page guides gives teachers tips, suggestions, and ideas to use in classrooms with students, and during professional dialogue with other teachers to increase student curiosity.



## Curiosity and Powerful Learning series

Our series of Curiosity and Powerful Learning booklets shows school teams how to systemically develop and support curious learners and teachers and create an effective, sustainable learning system supported by students, staff, and school leaders.



*Now available at: [store.mcrel.org](http://store.mcrel.org)!*

# Curiosity Works™

Curiosity drives the impulse to learn. In the pursuit of excellence in academics, we often overlook the power of curiosity as a natural driver of achievement.

McREL's Curiosity Works resources provide tools and methods to support curiosity among teachers, leaders, and learners at every level of learning.

We'll help you develop effective and sustainable curiosity-driven learning in your school that enhances learning for everyone—teachers, students, and school leaders.

**Curiosity makes *all* the difference. Contact us today.**

*Learn more at: [mcrel.org/curiosityworks](http://mcrel.org/curiosityworks)*



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