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

McREL INTERNATIONAL
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.
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!

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