



McREL
INTERNATIONAL

2025 PRODUCTS & SERVICES





About McREL

INTERNATIONAL

McREL International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education research, development, and service organization that turns knowledge about what works in education into practical, effective guidance to transform teaching, learning, and leading.

For more information about how we help schools and educators across the U.S. and around the world, please contact us at:

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info@mcrel.org

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New Resources

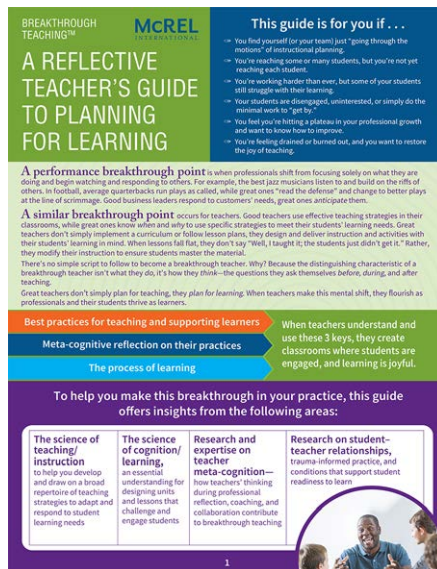
Breakthrough Teaching

Good teachers use effective teaching strategies in their classrooms, while great ones know when and why to use specific strategies to meet their students' learning needs.

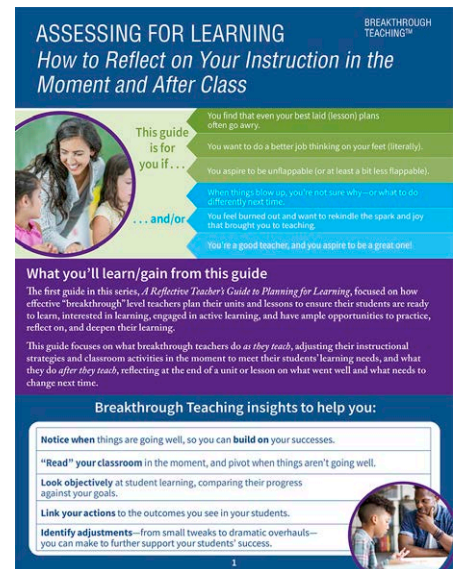
These 8-page quick guides give strategies and insights teachers can use to break through to the next level of teaching and learning in their classrooms.

Quick Guides, \$14.95

Purchase at: store.mcrel.org/catalog/book-series/breakthrough-teaching



A Reflective Teacher's Guide to Planning for Learning



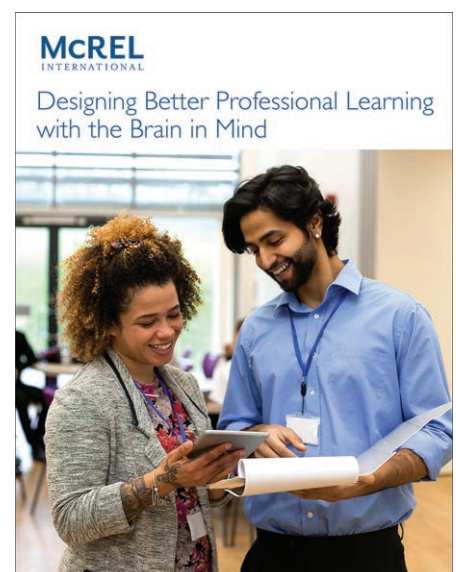
Assessing for Learning: How to Reflect on Your Instruction in the Moment and After Class

Designing Better Professional Learning Experiences for Educators

Let's make PD better for everyone, by designing professional learning with what brain science and evidence says works best.

In this free white paper, we share a six-phased model to help school and district staff develop engaging PD sessions that close the “knowing-doing” gap. Regardless of how or when PD takes place, research shows that professional learning can have a meaningful impact on educator practices and student learning when it's designed with the brain in mind.

Download at: mcrel.org/designing-better-professional-learning/



Designing Better Professional Learning with the Brain in Mind

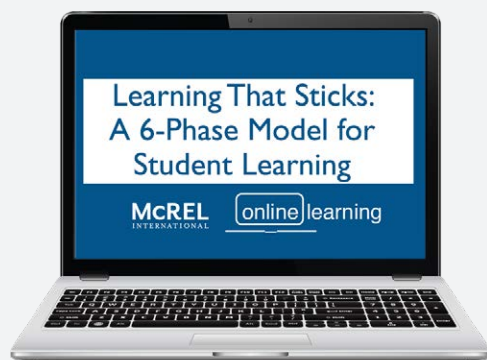
The Science of Learning



The science of learning is a body of knowledge and an approach for teaching based on key findings from cognitive-science research on learning and memory combined with education research on effective instruction.

Our professional learning sessions and resources help educators understand the science of learning and deliver instruction that increases their students' engagement, motivation, and successful learning.

Online Course



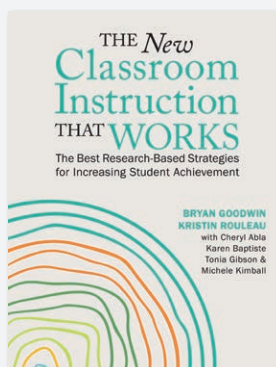
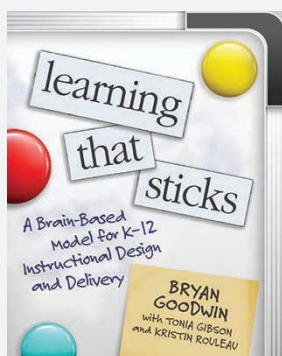
mcrel.org/thinkific.com/courses/learning-model

Professional Learning Workshop



- ✓ Onsite PL with your team
- ✓ Online coaching sessions
- ✓ Flexible schedule and budget

Books & Guides



mcrel.org/bookstore

Contact us today to schedule professional learning for your team on the Science of Learning!
800.858.6830 | info@mcrel.org



Teaching and Learning

How can I spark students' curiosity and motivate them to learn?

How can I help students makes sense of their learning and apply it to new situations?

McREL helps teachers, instructional coaches, and principals develop and hone their ability to consistently deliver high-quality Tier I instruction to every student at every level.

As a **research-based organization**, we use the **science of learning** to inform our evidence-based strategies, guidance, and resources to support deep learning for all students.

When you partner with McREL, you'll get instructional support services that are **customized** to meet your context and needs. Our conversations are grounded in and inspired by research and real-world best practices, but we'll take the time to learn about your school's strengths, goals, and community. This is a genuine, mission-driven partnership with your team designed to deliver customized experiences that meet your specified timeline, budget, and vision. It's a level of care and service you'll be hard-pressed to find with other education service organizations.

“Having highly effective instructional tools in the hands of our educators has paved a pathway for collaborative and engaging instruction in each classroom.”

—Anthonya Kahrs, Northeast Colorado BOCES

Let's start a conversation!

Contact us at info@mcrel.org to start the conversation and get a flexible, customized professional learning solution to meet your exact goals, timeline, and budget.

Best First Instruction

The best approach for reducing achievement gaps and accelerating student learning

Designed for: Classroom teachers, instructional coaches, teacher mentors, principals and assistant principals, and central office PD leaders

About: To improve learning success for every student across an entire school or district, there's no better place to begin than consistently providing best first instruction in every classroom. This foundational, Tier I instructional focus intentionally combines teachers' use of proven teaching strategies with an understanding of how students' minds get curious and interested in learning, process new information, and build long-lasting, applicable knowledge.

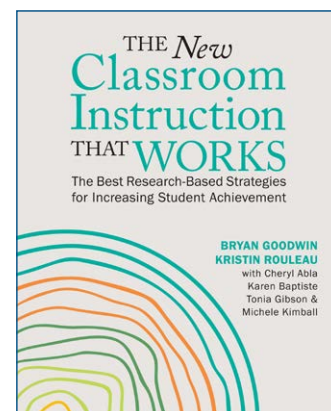
In our best first instruction consulting and professional learning (PL), we work with your school teams and/or districtwide teams to learn about your goals, strengths, and needs. Then we fine-tune our PL sessions and strategic guidance to match your specific contexts. Far from an off-the-shelf, prescribed program, we support educators with a variety of services to help them embed best first instruction schoolwide and/or systemwide through:

- professional learning sessions at your school to introduce teachers to crucial best first instruction concepts and evidence-based instructional strategies for Tier I instruction.
- ongoing, year-round professional learning and coaching through a job-embedded model.
- facilitated online coaching sessions, with inter-session application activities.
- professional learning sessions for instructional coaches, principals, and district professional development (PD) leaders on how to launch, monitor, and sustain a best first instruction effort across a school or district.

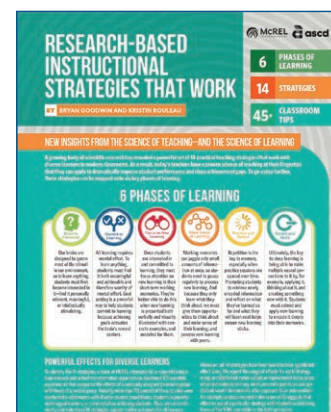
Schedule now: Call 800.858.6830, email info@mcrel.org, or use McREL's contact form at mcrel.org/contact to discuss a customized plan to meet your specified timeline, budget, and vision. Also consider our online learning experience: See p. 12.



Related Resources

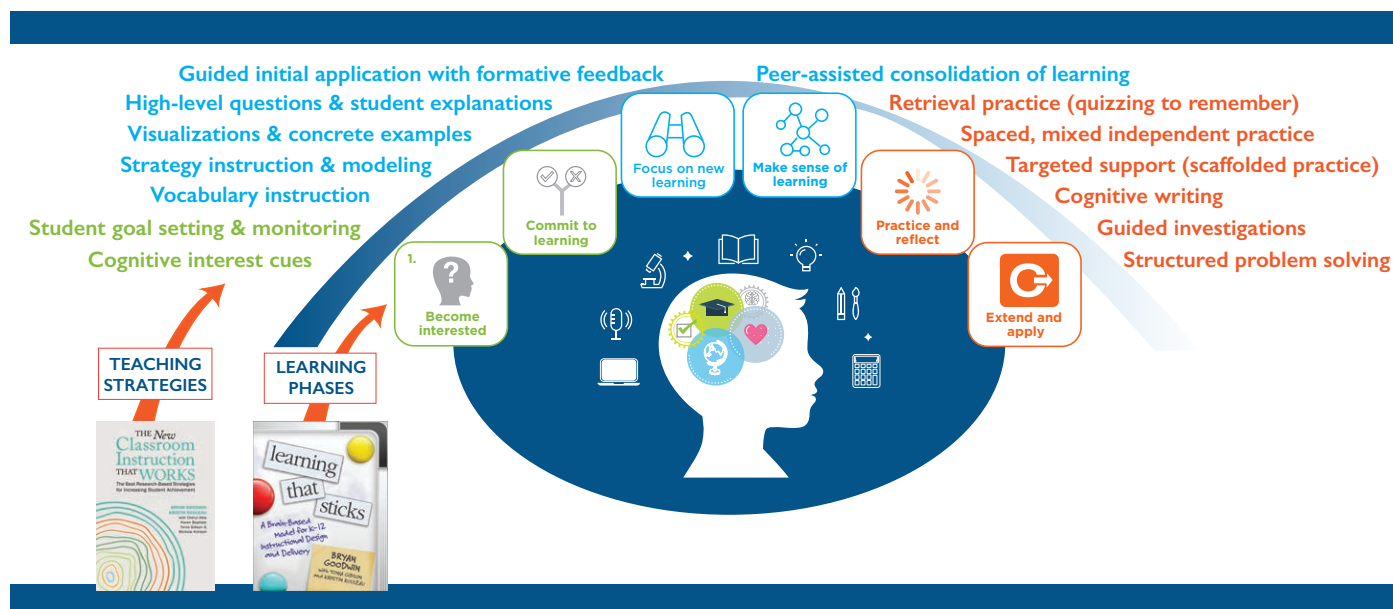


Softcover: \$29.95



Quick Guide: \$14.95

McREL's Best First Instruction model





Classroom Instruction That Works®

Designed for: Classroom teachers, instructional coaches, teacher mentors, principals and assistant principals, and central office PD leaders

About: Improving instruction for better student learning is about science, not guesswork. Our analysis of hundreds of instructional strategies has identified 14 teaching strategies that research shows have the strongest connections to student learning. These 14 strategies paired with our six phases of learning model form the heart of McREL's *Classroom Instruction That Works* (CITW) books, resources, and professional learning services used by teachers, instructional coaches, and school leaders worldwide.

Our CITW professional learning sessions help participants understand the “what, why, how, and when” of using each of the instructional strategies for maximum effect on student learning. CITW gives educators a clear, consistent approach to instruction, providing recommendations and tools for developing stronger lesson plans and effective classroom delivery. You will leave the session with tools, resources, and a better understanding of how, when, and why to use the CITW strategies in your classroom, with your students.

Professional Learning options:



On site: Our facilitators deliver PL in-person at your school/district. Typically formatted as a 2-day session, but schedule can be customized to match your budget, timeline, and goals.



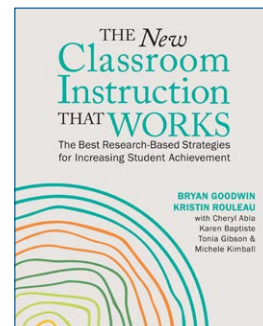
Online: Our facilitators deliver webinar-style sessions for your team; schedule customized to your needs.



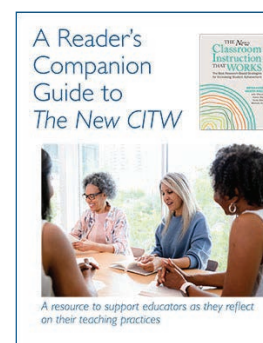
Hybrid: Combination of on-site days at your school/district plus online check-ins and coaching between sessions.

Schedule now: Call 800.858.6830, email info@mcrel.org, or use McREL's contact form at mcrel.org/contact to discuss a customized plan to meet your specified timeline, budget, and vision. Also consider our online learning experience: See p. 12.

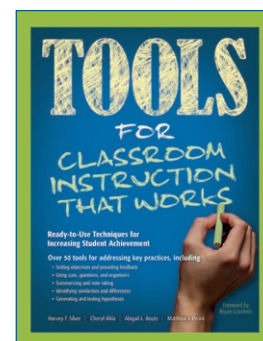
Related Resources



Softcover: \$29.95



Free PDF available at mcrel.org



Softcover: \$38.95

“With examples from all levels of education, *The New Classroom Instruction That Works* is a useful tool for beginning teachers and lifelong educators alike...making it easy for teachers to transfer the strategies into their practice.”

—Hannah Mickey, book review for MiddleWeb.com

Classroom Instruction That Works with English Learners

Designed for: Classroom teachers with English learners (ELs) in their class, EL specialists, assistant principals, and central office EL leaders

About: The **Classroom Instruction That Works with English Learners** professional learning sessions give teachers knowledge and applicable strategies regarding the five distinct stages of second language acquisition, which all language learners go through. The sessions help teachers recognize what stage their EL students are in, so teachers can better support them progress toward oral and written fluency. The sessions also demonstrate how to engage ELs in the classroom and cover the importance of teaching the academic language associated with content.

This session is highly customizable based on your school or district's goals and context. Variations include:

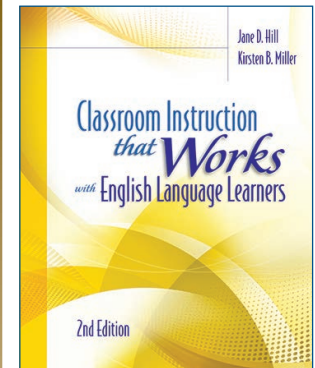
- 🔗 **Teaching Reading in the Content Areas with an EL Lens.** Experience hands-on practice with reading strategies, while viewing them through an EL lens to see what is different about teaching EL students.
- 🔗 **Academic Conversations in the Content Areas.** Practice academic talk aligned with content to fully appreciate its powerful connection to the oracy-literacy relationship.

Professional Learning options:

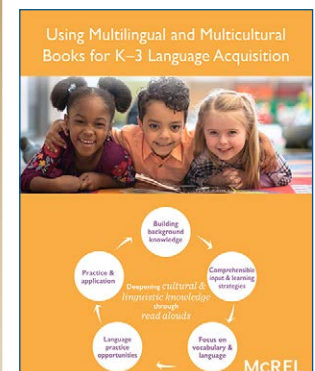
- 👤 **On site:** Our facilitators deliver PL in-person at your school/district. Typically formatted as a 1- or 2-day session, but schedule can be customized to match your budget, timeline, and goals.
- 🖥️ **Online:** Our facilitators deliver webinar-style sessions for your team; schedule customized to your needs.
- 👥 **Hybrid:** Combination of on-site days at your school/district plus online check-ins and coaching between sessions.
- 👤 **Trainers:** 2 days of professional learning on content plus 2 days of PL on program facilitation. Become authorized to deliver this workshop in your district or service area

Schedule now: Call 800.858.6830, email info@mcrel.org, or use McREL's contact form at mcrel.org/contact to discuss a customized plan to meet your specified timeline, budget, and vision. Also consider our new online learning experience: See p. 12.

Related Resources



Softcover: \$29.95



Quick Guide: \$12.95



Creating a Positive and Engaging Classroom Culture

Designed for: Principals, assistant principals, instructional coaches, and teachers

About: In addition to the cognitive needs of students, it is also critical for educators in today's world to be cognizant of the social and emotional well-being of their students to move them onward and upward. This can be done by creating a supportive and culturally responsive environment that fosters a risk-free climate for students to take on academic challenges and view struggle as part of the learning process.

In our **Creating a Positive and Engaging Classroom Culture** PL workshop, participants will learn:

- ☞ what an engaging classroom—with relevant, hands-on learning for students—looks, feels, and sounds like.
- ☞ instructional strategies to support students' social and emotional learning.

Professional Learning options:



On site: Our facilitators deliver PL in-person at your school/district. Typically delivered over 1–5 days, either consecutive or distributed throughout the school year. Schedule can be customized to match your budget, timeline, and goals.



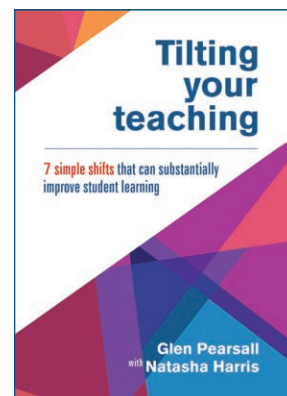
Online: Our facilitators deliver webinar-style sessions for your team; schedule customized to your needs.



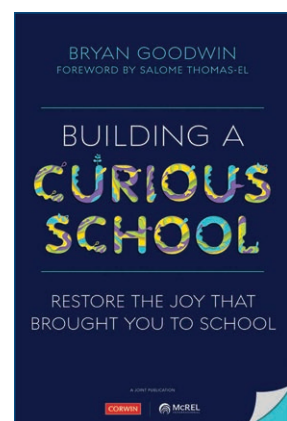
Hybrid: Combination of on-site days at your school/district plus online check-ins and coaching between sessions.

Schedule now: Call 800.858.6830, email info@mcrel.org, or use McREL's contact form at mcrel.org/contact to discuss a customized plan to meet your specified timeline, budget, and vision. Also consider our new online learning experience: See p. 12.

Related Resources



Softcover: \$24.95



Softcover: \$28.95





Instructional Coaching That Works

Designed for: Principals, assistant principals, instructional coaches, teacher mentors, and central office PD leaders

About: Understanding best practices for adult learning and, specifically, how teacher expertise develops throughout a career can help principals, PD leaders, instructional coaches, and teacher mentors better support their teachers.

In our **Instructional Coaching That Works** professional learning sessions, we explore best practices for helping educators adopt better routines, develop their expert mental models, and engage in shared innovation. Participants learn how to differentiate their coaching strategies for novice, mid-career, and expert-level teachers, and to guide teachers in a self-reflective growth cycle. At the heart of the workshop will be the exploration and application of a model for student learning that employs cognitive science to help teachers design deep learning experiences for students.

Professional learning options:



On site: Our facilitators deliver PL in-person at your school/district. Typically delivered over 1–5 days, either consecutive or distributed throughout the school year. Schedule can be customized to match your budget, timeline, and goals.



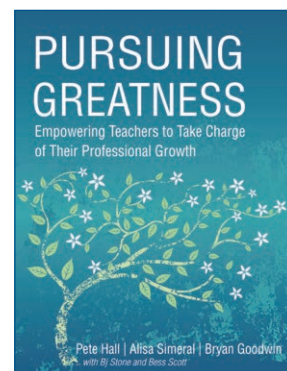
Online: Our facilitators deliver webinar-style sessions for your team; schedule customized to your needs.



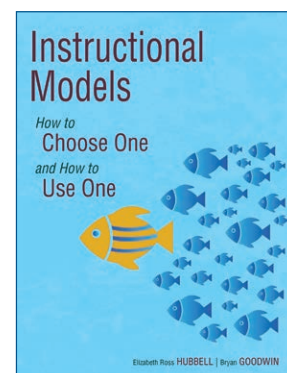
Hybrid: Combination of on-site days at your school/district plus online check-ins and coaching between sessions.

Schedule now: Call 800.858.6830, email info@mcrel.org, or use McREL's contact form at mcrel.org/contact to discuss a customized plan to meet your specified timeline, budget, and vision. Also consider our new online learning experience: See p. 12.

Related Resources



Softcover: \$32.95



Softcover: \$23.95



Learning That Sticks: A Six-Phase Model for Student Learning

Designed for: Classroom teachers, instructional coaches, teacher mentors, and professional development leaders

About: Ever wondered how you can spark your students' interest and motivate them to learn more, or how to help them make sense of their learning and apply it to new contexts? These are common questions for many teachers, from new hires to veterans.

Our **Learning That Sticks** professional learning program and resources provide teachers with practical strategies, classroom techniques, and instructional tools aligned with key insights from neuroscience on how students' brains receive new information, store it as memories, and then recall and apply it in the future.

During these sessions, we show educators how to craft, sequence, and present units and lessons in a way that best aligns with what's happening inside their students' minds as they're absorbing and applying new content. Learning how to use our unique and practical six-phase model for student learning can help any teacher, in any grade level or subject area, increase their students' interest and support deeper, authentic learning.

Professional Learning options:



On site: Our facilitators deliver PL in-person at your school/district. Typically delivered over 1–5 days, either consecutive or distributed throughout the school year. Schedule can be customized to match your timeline, and goals.



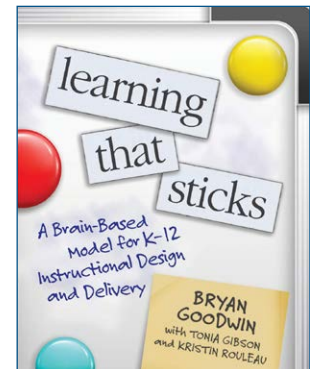
Online: Our facilitators deliver webinar-style sessions for your team; schedule customized to your needs.



Hybrid: Combination of on-site days at your school/district plus online check-ins and coaching between sessions.

Schedule now: Call 800.858.6830, email info@mcrel.org, or use McREL's contact form at mcrel.org/contact to discuss a customized plan to meet your specified timeline, budget, and vision. Also consider our new online learning experience: See p. 12.

Related Resources



Softcover: \$29.95



Quick Guide: \$12.95

Interested in learning more?

Call or email us today to talk with our school partnership team about how we can support your school or district goals for teacher professional growth and increases in student achievement.

mcrel.org | 800.858.6830 | info@mcrel.org



Power Walkthrough® Teacher Observation Tool

Designed for: Instructional coaches, principals, assistant principals, and district leaders

About: McREL's Power Walkthrough online app has been used in more than 1.4 million classrooms around the world. Designed to support coaching and professional learning conversations—not formal evaluations—the software contains practice-proven observation templates on effective instructional strategies, including those from *Classroom Instruction That Works*.

The user-friendly software allows principals, assistant principals, and instructional coaches to quickly record data from multiple walkthroughs, generate easy-to-read dashboard reports to help guide coaching conversations, and prioritize PD needs and opportunities.

Customizable: “Look for” templates can be contextualized to address your specific goals, needs, and areas of focus.

Trainers: Recommended training can be delivered as one-hour webinars for instructional coaches, school leaders, and district leaders; or an on-site workshop for up to 40 participants. Training webinar topics include an overview of instructional strategies from *Classroom Instruction That Works*, practice walkthroughs using video vignettes, and tips on looking at the data and generating reports. The on-site option adds actual walkthroughs and debriefs at a school.

Cost: \$450 per year, per user. Volume discounts available.

Schedule a demo: Contact us today at 800.858.6830 or info@mcrel.org to set up a free online demonstration of the Power Walkthrough system.

“McREL tailored the Power Walkthrough tool to meet our school's needs. We get real-time, meaningful, actionable data that celebrates our strengths and guides our next steps.”

—Denise Espania, school director, Malama Honua Charter School



Self-Paced Online Professional Learning

Our online courses provide inspiration, guidance, and practical strategies—all grounded in extensive research and evidence—to make your classroom a lively place of curiosity and achievement.

We offer **quick courses** (3 hours of content for \$39) and **in-depth courses** (15 hours of content for \$129) covering topics on effective instructional strategies for teachers and leadership techniques to support principals managing school improvement initiatives. Some of the available courses include:

- 👁️ **Creating a Classroom Environment That Supports Student Learning**
- 👁️ **Managing Change at Schools**
- 👁️ **Developing Collective Efficacy**
- 👁️ **Monitoring Implementation of School Initiatives**
- 👁️ **Curiosity, Memory, and Learning**
- 👁️ **Quality Questioning for Student Learning**
- 👁️ **Six-Phase Model for Student Learning That Sticks**
- 👁️ **Classroom Instruction That Works with English Learners: Student Learning Strategies**

Customizable: You can register as an individual or as a team (volume discounts available). For assistance with team registrations and payment by purchase orders, please contact us directly. If you prefer a blended professional learning experience that combines on-site sessions at your school with synchronous and asynchronous online sessions, we can collaborate with you to design a just-right solution for your team.

mcrel.thinkific.com/collections

How can we invest in the growth and performance of our teachers and leaders?

How can we establish a common professional approach and language among our educators?

McREL's personnel evaluation systems are founded on research and present clear, easy-to-use rubrics and descriptions to gauge staff performance on what matters most for student achievement and educator efficacy.

And each of our frameworks takes a growth-oriented approach aimed at helping teachers, principals, and district leaders reach their full professional potential:

- ✍ **CUES Teacher Evaluation.** The Content, Understanding, Environment, and Support (CUES) framework contains 23 rating elements based on McREL's research into effective instruction and professional teacher practice. It aligns with our *Classroom Instruction That Works* research, publications, and professional development.
- ✍ **Balanced Leadership Principal Evaluation.** Based on our *Balanced Leadership* research, publications, and professional development, this 21-element framework aligns with analysis on effective school-level leadership practices that correlate to higher levels of student achievement and school performance.
- ✍ **Balanced Leadership Central Office and Superintendent Evaluation.** Based on McREL's extensive research on the effects of superintendent and central office instructional leadership on student achievement and aligned with our *Balanced Leadership* body of knowledge, this 16-element framework provides a coherent approach to leadership evaluation and support.

Schedule a demo today!

Talk with our school partnership team about how we can support your approach to educator evaluation: 800.858.6830

Teacher and Leader Evaluation Services



Leadership Services and Professional Learning

Where and how should I focus my leadership to have the biggest impact on student success?

How can I inspire our teachers, support staff, students, parents, and community with **a shared vision and purpose?**

What makes a high-quality principal or district administrator?

McREL's analysis of research points to a specific set of actions and responsibilities that principals, district administrators, superintendents, and other system leaders can take to increase student learning, educator effectiveness, and school performance. We've worked with more than 20,000 school leaders across the country and around the world to help them:

- ❖ **strengthen their knowledge and skills** using these research-based leadership actions in their daily job performance.
- ❖ **use key insights from improvement science, high-reliability organizations, and change management** to elevate their schools' performance.
- ❖ **accelerate and scale up the “bright spots”** that already exist within their schools and systems.
- ❖ **create leadership development pipelines** that support the growth of future leaders from within their own schools.

Leadership Coaching

With McREL's customized leadership coaching, you'll get a plan that's adapted and contextualized to your school or district's unique situation, with on-site, online, or combination delivery models that meet your budget, timeline, and goals.

Balanced Leadership for Student Learning™

Designed for: Principals, assistant principals, teacher leaders, and central office staff who supervise principals

About: What makes an effective principal and school leader? What's the best leadership style to help make schools better for all students? McREL's research and analysis on effective schools discovered a set of specific leadership behaviors and actions that help students learn more and help teachers and staff increase their collective efficacy. We used this evidence base to create Balanced Leadership® and have helped more than 20,000 principals across the U.S. and around the world gain this knowledge and improve their leadership skills.

Now thoroughly updated and redesigned, the new Balanced Leadership for Student Learning helps leaders learn the key actions and responsibilities of school leadership—and, more importantly, how, when, and why to enact them in their schools to increase student learning and school success.

Our **Balanced Leadership for Student Learning** professional learning experiences help school leaders:

- ✎ **establish a clear focus for school improvement**—keeping the work and the conversations at your school targeted on the issues that matter most for student learning, and uniting your school community with a shared vision of school success.
- ✎ **manage change well**—understanding how to create positive demand for change and skillfully steer through the challenges associated with making changes to procedures, programs, and policies for improvement.
- ✎ **develop a purposeful school community**—creating a sense of collective efficacy among your teachers and staff, which is a shared belief that, together, they can make a difference for students.

Delivery:



On site: 4 days spread throughout the school year



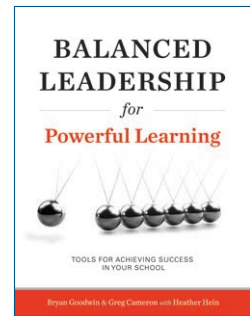
Hybrid: 4 days of on-site visits spread throughout the school year, plus virtual check-ins and coaching between on-site visits



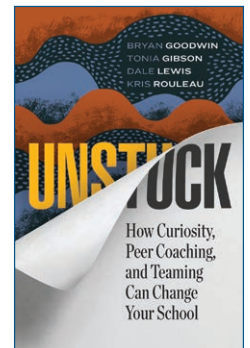
Trainers: Obtain additional training to become authorized to deliver Balanced Leadership workshops in your district or educational service agency area

Schedule now: Call 800.858.6830, email info@mcrel.org, or use McREL's contact form at mcrel.org/contact to discuss a customized plan to meet your specified timeline, budget, and vision. Also consider our new online facilitator renewal.

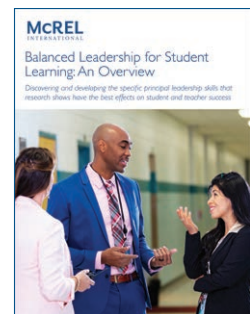
Related Resources



Softcover: \$23.95



Softcover: \$29.95



Free PDF available at mcrel.org

“*Balanced Leadership has provided our campus and district leaders with common vocabulary, evidence-based strategies, and effective tools for gaining focus, leading change, and building a purposeful community committed to positive outcomes for each and every student in our system.*”

—Dr. Malinda Golden, superintendent, Belton Independent School District



Research, Evaluation, and Data Analysis

Which of our academic interventions are working best?

Who can evaluate our grant implementation and outcomes?

What's working well for educators, students, and other stakeholders in your schools? What are the successful bright spots that you can scale up for a bigger impact on more students? How well are individual programs delivering on expectations and goals?

Answering these questions can help accelerate your school and district improvement efforts.

McREL helps schools, districts, and colleges/universities examine and improve their processes and measure the effectiveness of programs, interventions, and grant-funded services. With a broad range of quantitative and qualitative experts on our team, we can give you and your team extra capacity to document what's at stake, what works, and how to get even better.

Program Evaluation

How well are your programs or interventions being implemented? What results are they producing? What are the hidden bright spots that can be scaled up? What unknown gaps or misalignments might be holding back performance? We can help you get answers and insights that can recharge and accelerate your efforts to increase success for your students and teachers.

McREL provides program evaluation services for school districts, state departments of education, foundations, and other education agencies. We also can be your evaluation partner for grants you've received that require external evaluation of program implementation and outcomes.

“As an evaluator, McREL is a true partner—they're not just here to scrutinize the work, they're here to help us improve!”

—Sanoe Marfil, CEO of INPEACE

Capacity Building for Data Collection and Analysis, and Grant Applications

Do you have a research and accountability team in your district or agency, but they need some extra capacity to collect and analyze data for a specific project? We can assist, working alongside your staff to help achieve your goals on time and on budget.

We also have expertise partnering with district and agency grant departments, being a supportive, critical friend who can review important grant applications to make sure they're giving you the best chances for success.

For short-term and long-term projects, our team can give you additional capacity and expertise to meet your project goals and timelines.

For state departments, foundations, grant funding agencies, etc., McREL can provide:

- research, design, and implementation
- program evaluation
- development of assessment instruments

For ed-tech product developers/creators, McREL can:

- review your product's alignment with federal, state, and local academic standards.
- review your product's professional learning supports for educators.
- conduct an efficacy study to analyze your product's impact on student learning.
- assess how strong your evidence-base is for meeting federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) tiers of evidence.

Stay up to date!

Keep abreast of the latest grant opportunities by subscribing to the free McREL Monthly Newsletter. Each month, we share upcoming education grants, highlighting relevant application information and important deadlines.

mcrel.org/sign-up-for-free-resources



School and System Improvement Services

How can we build staff capacity to plan, start, and sustain more effective improvement?

How can we improve outcomes for our students in a way that fits our local contexts, strengths, and goals?

All students benefit when schools and districts develop a high-performance culture where educators and leaders are strategic about continuous improvement and innovation.

McREL's school improvement team can help you uncover the root causes of challenges and identify areas for quick wins and long-term growth. Taking an assets-based, bright-spots approach, we'll help you identify and build on what your school or system is doing well, while also developing your staff's capacity to initiate and sustain important improvement efforts.

School Diagnostic Reviews and Comprehensive Needs Assessments

McREL understands the unique needs of K–12 schools and higher education programs, and our goal is to help your team discover areas of strength and potential improvements for more success.

We can conduct a diagnostic review of your school or program, looking at curriculum, instruction and assessment practices, analyzing outcome data, and gathering insights from educators, students, families, and other key stakeholders.

Following the review, you'll have the evidence-based information and recommendations you need to create and launch a high-quality improvement plan. And if you need support initiating and implementing your action plan, our team can help you with capacity building on change management, progress monitoring, and continuous improvement cycles.

“McREL gave us robust data and gave everybody an opportunity to contribute and give feedback . . . The goals are deep, and they're going to make an impact.”

—Adria Medeiros, principal, Mountain View Elementary School

Curiosity Works for School Improvement and Innovation: Getting Started

Designed for: PreK–12 school and district leadership teams

About: Unlock the power of curiosity with our professional learning to support school and district leadership teams as they learn about and plan for action using a Curiosity Works approach to school improvement.

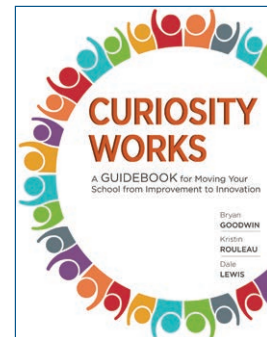
Through this professional learning, teams will:

- 🔗 learn why curiosity is an important lever for learning and how to cultivate it in teachers, leaders, and learners.
- 🔗 understand the differences between an inside-out, curiosity-driven approach to school improvement and an outside-in or top-down approach.
- 🔗 return to their core purpose, articulating and strengthening their school's core values, mission, and vision.
- 🔗 engage in a data review process that focuses on bright spots as well as areas for growth, resulting in a self-assessment of a school's position along the five Curiosity Works Improvement Pathways that are grounded in our What Matters Most Framework.
- 🔗 establish a focus for improvement or innovation and identify high-leverage strategies for action.
- 🔗 draft a plan to support peer coaching as a professional learning structure.
- 🔗 identify leadership actions to support implementation of a school's change initiatives.
- 🔗 create a plan of action to begin a Curiosity Works approach to school improvement.
- 🔗 learn about and practice using 16 different tools to support their school improvement journey.

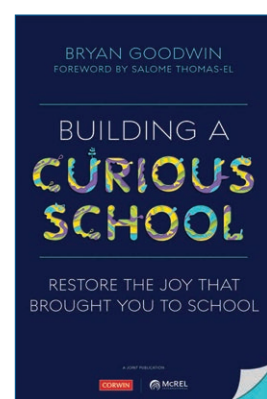
Delivery: Flexible on site and online options, customized to your school/district needs and size.

Schedule now: Call 800.858.6830, email info@mcrel.org, or use McREL's contact form at mcrel.org/contact to discuss a customized plan to meet your specified timeline, budget, and vision.

Related Resources



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Softcover: \$28.95



Free Papers and Reports

McREL's consultants and researchers love to share what they've learned through their research and work in the field. One way they do it is through our series of free white papers and reports. See them all at mcrel.org/whitepapers. Here's a sampling:

McREL INTERNATIONAL
EXPERT TEACHING SERIES
Instructional shifts to lift all learners

Shifting Learning Objectives into Personalized Student Goals

Putting learning objectives in a student's instructional strategy used in classrooms daily, to make sure we have learning that objectives create an environment where students and their teacher—in theory—are on the same page for the length of a unit's expectations. But here the real strategy is that an objective, which is often written to focus on the learning goal, can easily miss the mark that helps students connect to their own learning. And that connection is important—in our analysis of research for The New Classroom Instruction That Works, we found numerous studies in classrooms with diverse learners that showed when students set their own learning goals and monitor their own progress, it has a powerful effect on learning outcomes—in many cases, significantly increasing achievement gains.

To make the shift to high-quality, expert-level instructional practice, a student learning objective need to evolve from what a teacher needs to teach to what a student needs to learn. Students need to see themselves in the objective. Finding it relevant to their own lives. This means moving from the standard "Here's what you will learn..." perspective to one that asks students what something they will find in the lesson. The idea we're not asking teachers to do away with creating and putting learning objectives—teacher-written objectives are important for transfer clarity and aligning students with what they need to learn. Instead, we're recommending that this step become a precursor to students writing their own goals. This can be accomplished by asking students to rewrite the objective as a personal statement that addresses what and why they will learn.

This personal commitment to learning is an essential step in our six-phase model for student learning, an evidence-based model powered by brain science on curiosity and memory (see graphic below). From this science, we know that "we must connect our brain to the world" is the effort to stay powered on. We must tell our brain we want to learn something (e.g., because we find it fascinating), need to learn something (e.g., because we find it useful), or should learn something (e.g., because it will help someone else)."

Teachers can use this strategy to have their students redefine a lesson's success criteria in personally relevant ways. Consider the goals we set in our own lives—one by the most successful when we truly want to accomplish them and believe we can. It's one thing to be told to do something, but the motivation is far stronger when it comes from within. For student goals, it's no different. As Ken Wilber defined in 2000, student motivation is a combination of value and expectancy. If our students are motivated by their goals, they must be able to answer several questions: What is the value of this goal? What is it for me? And can I achieve this goal?

One way to help them remember "what's in it for me?" is to have them rewrite the learning objectives by adding the phrase "we that," like this:

Just as important as students understanding the learning objective and making it personally relevant, they need to connect to their own learning.

*Gardner, D., Wilson, T. & Wilson, R. (2015). Learning this critical foundation model for all connected design. All rights reserved. © 2015. All rights reserved. All rights reserved.

Shifting Learning Objectives into Personalized Student Goals

Download at mcrel.org/learning-objectives-to-student-goals/

McREL INTERNATIONAL

Balanced Leadership for Student Learning: An Overview

Discovering and developing the specific principal leadership skills that research shows have the best effects on student and teacher success

Balanced Leadership for Student Learning: An Overview

Download at mcrel.org/balanced-leadership-for-student-learning

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Unleashing the Power of Best First Instruction

To help students catch up from interrupted learning, close achievement and opportunity gaps, and ensure more equitable outcomes for all students, there's likely no better place to begin than best first instruction.

By Bryan Goodrich

Unleashing the Power of Best First Instruction

Download at <https://www.mcrel.org/unleashing-the-power-of-best-first-instruction>

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Classroom Walkthroughs

Where data-gathering and relationship-building meet for school improvement

By Kristin Rouleau & Tracie Carter

Classroom Walkthroughs: Where Data-Gathering and Relationship-Building Meet for School Improvement

Download at mcrel.org/classroom-walkthroughs

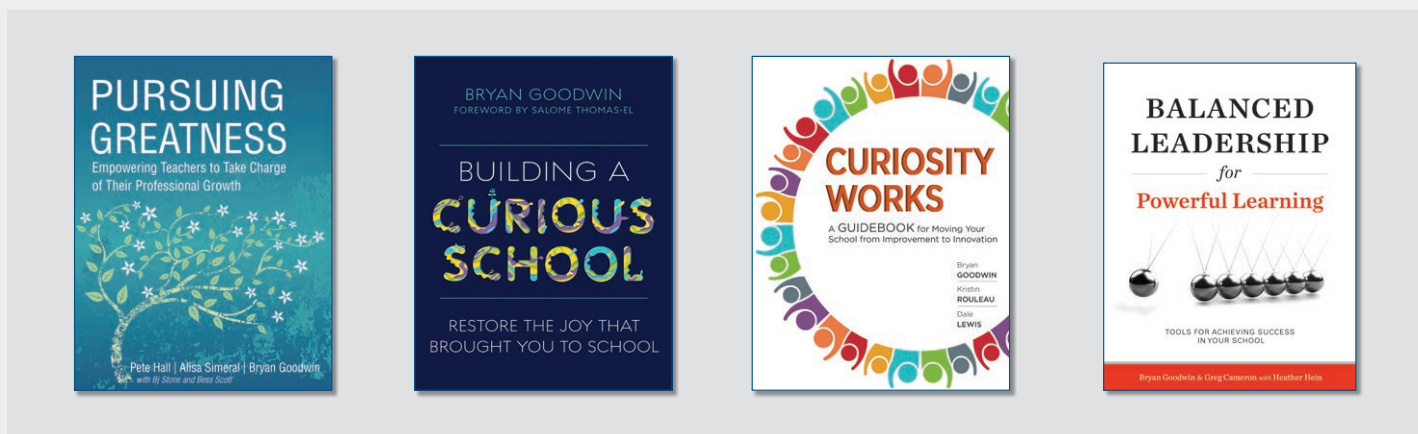
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