



Connecticut League of Innovative Schools

Founded in 2011, the League of Innovative Schools is a regional professional learning community for schools. Membership is open to any New England secondary school—including charter schools, private schools, and career-and-technical institutions—committed to educational equity, student-centered learning, and ongoing improvement. All participating schools will become part of a growing network of learning institutions working to strengthen their programs, exchange professional expertise, and create better learning opportunities for their students.

Through a partnership with the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), secondary schools throughout the state will be invited to participate in the League of Innovative Schools.

How it Works

The League of Innovative Schools:

- ◆ Connects educators. We know that collaboration and strong professional relationships motivate, accelerate, and sustain school improvement, and that school leaders and teachers are more effective when they work together. The League of Innovative Schools brings together educators working to build stronger communities, create more energized learning environments, and get better results for students.
- ◆ Spreads good ideas. Educators are an endless source of inspiration and innovation for other educators. When good ideas are shared, and when educators discuss what works and what doesn't, our schools improve, teachers are more professionally fulfilled, and students graduate better prepared for life. The League of Innovative Schools is forum for school leaders and teachers to exchange expertise and learn from their colleagues.
- ◆ Accelerates improvement. Innovation does not happen in a vacuum—the best ideas come from collective enterprise and shared knowledge. When schools work together, they get better results and they get them quicker. The League of Innovative Schools helps educators learn what's worked—and what hasn't—in other New England schools.

Our Beliefs

The League of Innovative Schools is founded on three core beliefs:

- ◆ Educators create great schools. Skilled teachers and strong leaders matter far more than funding levels or facilities. Schools are only as effective as the educators who lead them.
- ◆ Every school can improve. Learning is a lifelong process—for students and educators. The highest performing schools are continually learning, improving, and seeking out what works.
- ◆ Collaboration drives success. In the world’s most effective schools, teachers work together and develop a sense of collective responsibility. They are committed to their students, to their community, and to one another.

Why it Matters

- ◆ Strong schools are the best job-creation program we have. Imagination, expertise, creativity, entrepreneurialism—these are the assets that drive innovation, create new industries, and produce the most sought-after workers. Preparing every student for success will strengthen our economy and empower our communities.
- ◆ Strong schools are the foundation of our society. Democracy, opportunity, prosperity, equality—the values that have defined America—depend on an informed, engaged, well-educated citizenry. To prepare the next generation of citizens and leaders, we need great schools for every student.
- ◆ Strong schools create strong communities. Schools are the cornerstones of our communities. We celebrate our students, cheer on our local teams, and welcome graduates into our workplaces, institutions, and families. To keep our communities vibrant, prosperous, and thriving, we need great schools.

How to Become a Member School

Membership in the League is open to any Connecticut middle or high school, grades 6-12 – including charter schools, private schools, and career-and-technical institutions – committed to educational equity, student-centered learning, and ongoing improvement.

To become a member of the League of Innovative Schools, please take a few minutes to complete this online [Partnership Agreement Form](#). Schools will be admitted to the LIS immediately upon successful submission of the form.

LIS members will be asked to complete this online form every year in an effort to renew their commitment to the League. Upon completing the Partnership Agreement, members will be contacted with a request to share school data. Our goal is to use this data to build a snapshot of each member school on the LIS website. We believe giving a broader picture of each member school will help foster communication and learning across LIS members.

While there is no cost to join the League and benefit from the learning community, state-level meetings, and virtual supports, there are moderate fees for certain regional events and services. Please review the [LIS Membership Benefits and Supports](#) for further details.



For More Information: Contact Your State Liaison

Ted Hall, Senior Associate
Great Schools Partnership
thall@greatschoolspartnership.org
207.650.5334

For the school year 2018-2019, there will be four in-state meetings for the Connecticut League of Innovative Schools. Through a partnership with the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), two of the meetings will be held at CAS and two of the meetings will be held at member schools. Here is the full schedule:

Date	Time	Location	
Friday November 9, 2018	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	Connecticut Association of Schools 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire	
Monday January 7, 2019	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	High School in the Community 175 Water St, New Haven	
Tuesday February 5, 2019	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	Connecticut Association of Schools 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire	
Wednesday May 1, 2019	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	Irving Robbins Middle School 20 Wolf Pit Rd, Farmington	

The first meeting to be held at CAS will use the [Elements of Effective Instruction](#), a tool developed by [Great Schools Partnership](#), as a focus for the morning session. Participants will have an opportunity to explore this tool in depth and engage in discussions about how the tool can be used in schools to improve instructional practices. The afternoon session will be an opportunity for school teams to give and receive feedback from like-minded schools engaged in school improvement efforts. Schools are encouraged to attend in teams with at least one school building leader. The cost for the event is \$15.00 per person to cover both breakfast and lunch. To register for this meeting, please go to <http://casci.ac/3832> or click on the blue button above.

This meeting is open to League of Innovative Schools members as well as other Connecticut secondary schools who are interested in learning more about the League of Innovative Schools and are considering membership. Registration will be limited to 60.