



Tennessee Teacher Leader Collaborative Partnership Agreement

Preface

One of the most powerful innovations identified by Tennessee educators is the power of collaboration. Collaboration is the resource most frequently cited by teachers as contributing to their improvement as professional educators. Tennessee is home to a rich diversity of teacher leader networks. Beginning in 2015, the Tennessee Department of Education (“Department”) together with the State Collaborative on Reforming Education (“SCORE”) hosted a Teacher Leadership Summit to explore strategies that could enact teacher leadership at high-impact but sustainable scale, and outline next steps in moving the strategies forward at state and local levels. Collectively, participants in this Summit represented a wide variety of focus areas, as well as networks, ranging from school districts to the Department and independent nonprofits. As a result of the Teacher Leadership Summit and subsequent convenings, there emerged a collective vision for:

“...a network of teacher leadership networks across Tennessee that could leverage the efforts of districts, TDOE, other organizations, and individual teacher leaders. Such a ‘superstructure’ would be poised to address each of the challenges identified by the summit attendees by connecting the dots among participating organizations, creating community among cadres of teacher leaders, fighting ‘change fatigue’ among educators in many roles, and offering just enough structure to make the work sustainable.”

Out of this vision, the Tennessee Teacher Leader Collaborative (“TTLC”) was developed to enhance coordination and facilitate collaboration across existing teacher leader networks and teacher leaders across the state. The purpose of this Partnership Agreement is to clarify the specific commitments made by and to TTLC partners.

➤ **TTLC Vision**

Every Tennessee teacher has knowledge of and access to multiple, sustainable teacher leadership pathways that lead to improved teaching and learning and elevation of the teaching profession.

➤ **TTLC Mission**

The TTLC was established to collectively build an overarching network structure for teacher leadership and collaboration. Our mission is to support the development and sustainability of exemplary and innovative teacher leader networks through curation and dissemination of key information, sharing of impactful practices, and purposeful collaboration.

➤ **Goals and Outcomes:**

1. Ensure teacher leadership efforts are coordinated, working toward a common vision, and have impact;
2. Expand the role of teacher leadership in attracting, retaining, and supporting highly effective educators;
3. Amplify educator voice and support empowered educators;
4. Identify and expand access to teacher leadership opportunities in Tennessee; and
5. Prioritize teacher leadership as a long-term strategy statewide that is supported by a network of partners.



Purpose

The TTLC recognizes that in order for its collaboration to be successful, there must be coordinated commitment and action from all partners toward the common vision and mission. Partnership is open to any organization (Ex. School district, community organization, foundation, business, etc.) who embraces TTLC’s vision, mission, and goals and agrees to these commitments.

Partner Commitments

Partners make the following commitments to the TTLC:

- To actively contribute their effort and support to achieve the goals of the TTLC through their respective organizations and spheres of influence
- To work together in a respectful and collaborative manner
- To choose and manage the activities they will implement and resources they will commit to the TTLC
- To actively support and encourage the teacher leadership efforts of TTLC partners
- To identify and engage additional, appropriate partners in the TTLC
- To share non-proprietary data and information related to activities and accomplishments undertaken toward TTLC priorities

TTLC Commitments

The TTLC makes the following commitments to its partners:

- To facilitate collective efforts that have impact and transcend individual organizations
- To announce all meetings and events with adequate notice and in a manner that enables participation by teacher leaders with classroom responsibilities, to structure all meetings and events with clear objectives and outcomes, and to be mindful of partners’ time
- To ensure that the structure and activities of the TTLC are co-designed by teacher leaders. Teacher leadership serves as both an organizing principle as well as the overarching goal of the TTLC.
- To give appropriate recognition to partners’ contributions to TTLC goals
- To not require or expect any partner to divulge proprietary information

Signatures

Acknowledged and agreed to by:

Name:
Partner Organization:
Date:

Acknowledged on behalf of the TTLC Steering Committee

Name:
Date: