

Consortium for Educational Change (CEC) SUSTAINABILITY

CEC is deeply committed to capacity-building in its partner schools. By working to build ongoing collaborative structures, including working partnerships between key district and union representatives, CEC aims to ensure that the work of the SIG grant is carried forward seamlessly after the grant period is ended. CEC also provides a process and tools for an annual cost/benefit analysis with a focus on academic return on investment. This process allows LEAs to effectively determine which resources need to be reallocated or sustained through other funds, and to prioritize academic and social interventions, personnel investments, and non-personnel investments to sustain lasting transformation.

At every level of its work with SIG partners, CEC builds sustainability planning into its process. Some examples include:

Professional Learning Communities

Rather than focusing on high-cost one-off professional development with little long term impact, CEC focuses on establishing effective PLCs within SIG schools. These groups, once trained and established, are an ongoing locus of high quality professional development that has great impact on student achievement.

Progress Monitoring

CEC supports SIG schools and districts in creating effective data-driven progress monitoring systems that enable effective sustainability planning by identifying the cost-benefit ratio of various interventions, allowing districts to prioritize resources and staffing more effectively.

Partnership Council for Continuous Improvement

To produce long-term sustainable and systemic change, the school change strategy must include the surrounding community. CEC will also work with the district and union leadership to establish a Partnership Council for Continuous Improvement which will bring together representatives of the administration, board of education, union leadership, school staff and parent and community leaders to focus on changes that impact the individual school as well as systemic issues that impact the entire community. It will identify areas where learning from the SIG school can be shared across the district, as well as with community partners, in ways that encourage opportunities to share resources more effectively throughout the schools, district and community. In addition, the council can work on creating conditions for success, ensuring sustained commitment, monitoring implementation, and proactively engaging the community.