Emergence of Networked Learning

Alaska Educational Innovations Network (AEIN)
believes that the expertise to improve schools and student learning exists within Alaska's schools and universities, and that through networked learning this expertise can be effectively applied to school improvement efforts.

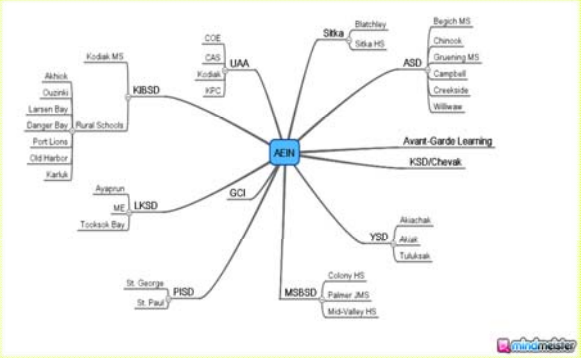
Networked Learning:

•Uses research-recognized tools such as logic models to integrate, focus, and improve staff efforts around understanding and using data, assessing student growth and achievement, and improving instruction and learning.

•Builds capacity within schools and the state to design, implement and evaluate effective school improvement strategies.

Outcomes:

By building on the wisdom and expertise from partners across the network, school improvement efforts become both cost-effective and context specific, both for local schools and Alaska.



The partners are all represented in a traditional model. Through our process, we evolved to the network on the right.

Threadless Poetic Synergy, *http://www.flickr.com/photos/revcruz/2091705061/*

Emergence:

"Change begins as local actions spring up simultaneously in many different areas. When they become connected, local actions can emerge as a powerful system with influence at a more comprehensive level."
Wheatley and Frieze "Using Emergence to Take Social Innovation to Scale"

Voices from Network Leaders:

"I've learned how to use data to create a logic model to improve performance, both my own and my students."

"I've learned that there is no one solution for everyone."

"That I have a voice and my experiences can add information to the teaching community."

"I have learned that developing a logic model can be painful but promotes a sense of shared purpose and goals."

Research:

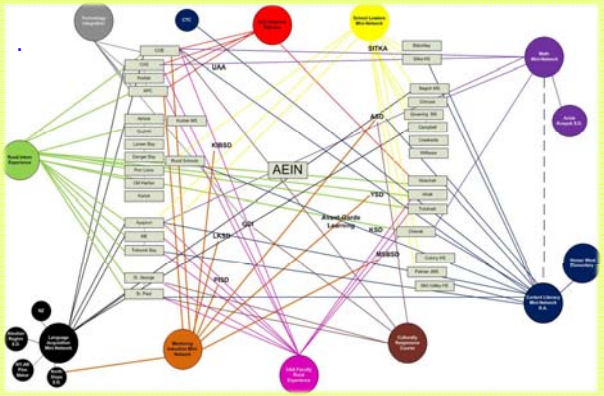
Recent results from a fifteen year study by the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research, found that schools are ten times more likely to improve student achievement with support across leadership, professional development, environment, strong instructional guidance and materials, and a welcoming attitude towards parents and community.

State-wide Initiatives

Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has recently produced a self-study guide for districts engaged in improvement efforts. The guide asks districts to assess their efforts across six domains including: leadership, professional development, environment, curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Our Findings:

AEIN's networked learning provides supports across DEED's six domains as well as parent community emphasis.



Student achievement results are promising.

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