

PROJECT  
EVIDENT

# Building and Sustaining Networks

Bi Vuong, *Managing Director, Education  
Practice*

Pathways to Adult Success

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**We believe evidence building – led by practitioners – will result in better outcomes for communities.**



# We've supported the evidence-building efforts of over 40 practitioners and funders (select list)



A Signature Program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption



## Three Networks at different stages of development (and maturity)



### Personalized Learning Cohort

- Partnership with New Profit and 7 Personalized Learning Organization
- *Duration:* 12 month
- *Start Date:* Jan 2019



### Chronic Absenteeism Network

- Partnership with districts (currently 9)
- *Duration:* at least 3 years with each district
- *Start Date:* Dec 2015

## NCRERN

### Rural Education

- Partnership with 2 states and 50 rural districts
- *Duration:* 5 years
- *Start Date:* Feb 2019

# Personalized Learning Cohort

Developing Evidence Building  
Capacity

*(A partnership with New Profit)*



## Starting a network with a common objective



### Goals

- To support each organization's ability to generate and use evidence for program improvement and impact
- To jointly learn about opportunities and challenges related to creating an evidence base for personalized learning



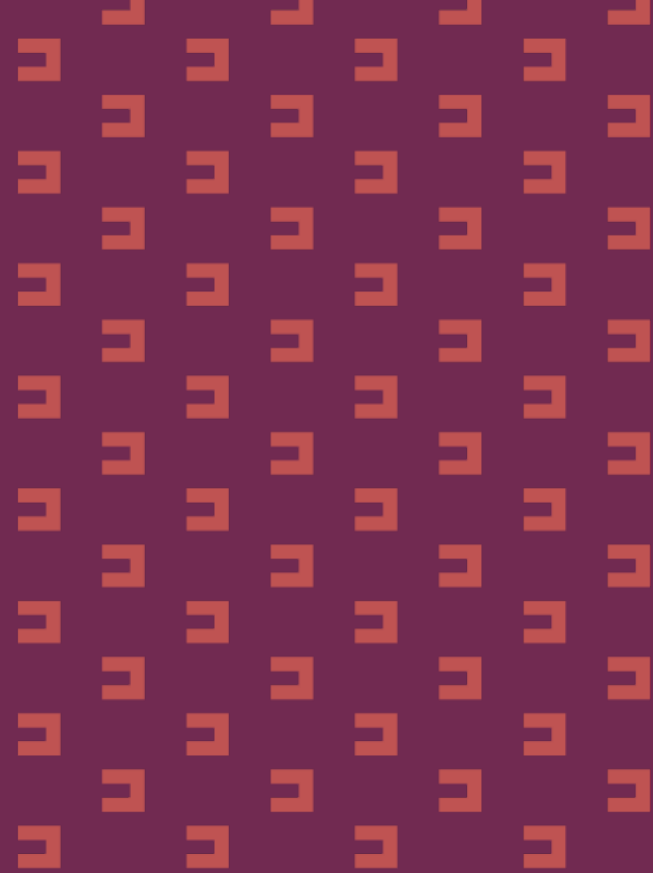
### Outcomes

- Support the build out data security policies, protocols, and infrastructure
- Create data collection protocols
- Train on how the creation of a theory of change and corresponding metrics for measurement
- Evaluate existing data for program learning (and potential modification)
- Conduct short-cycle A/B tests to determine program effectiveness.

# Proving Ground

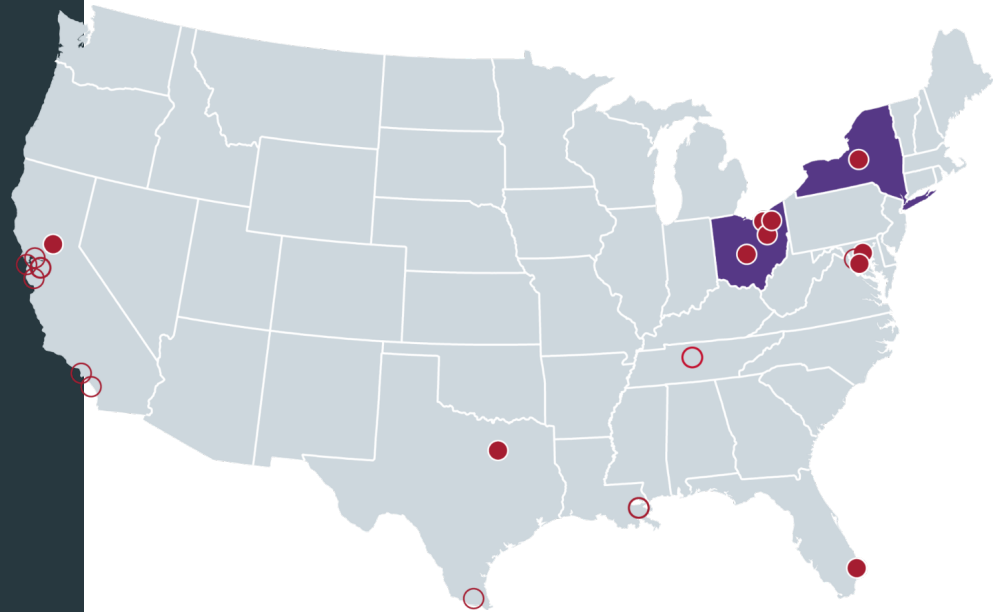
## Learning Faster Together

*(At the Center for Education Policy Research, Harvard University)*



## Proving Ground's Chronic Absenteeism Network

- 9 school districts / CMOs
  - Canton City Schools
  - DC Public Schools
  - East Cleveland City Schools
  - KIPP DC
  - Maple Heights City Schools
  - School District of Palm Beach County
  - Syracuse City Schools
  - Twin Rivers Unified SD
  - Uplift
- ~313,000 students
- ~ 70% FRPL



## Maintaining a network that learns faster together



### Goals

- To support districts improve student attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism
- To build districts capacity to engage in continuous improvement that is supported by rigorous data and evidence



### Outcomes

In SY 2018-2019

- 12 pilots were tested; 9 were effective and many were scaled mid-year
- An estimated 52,000 instructional days were gained

For 2019-2020

- Partners are piloting interventions that worked elsewhere.
- Adding new interventions that were co-designed with the district and deeply informed by students

# The National Center for Rural Education Research Networks

Building Collective Capacity

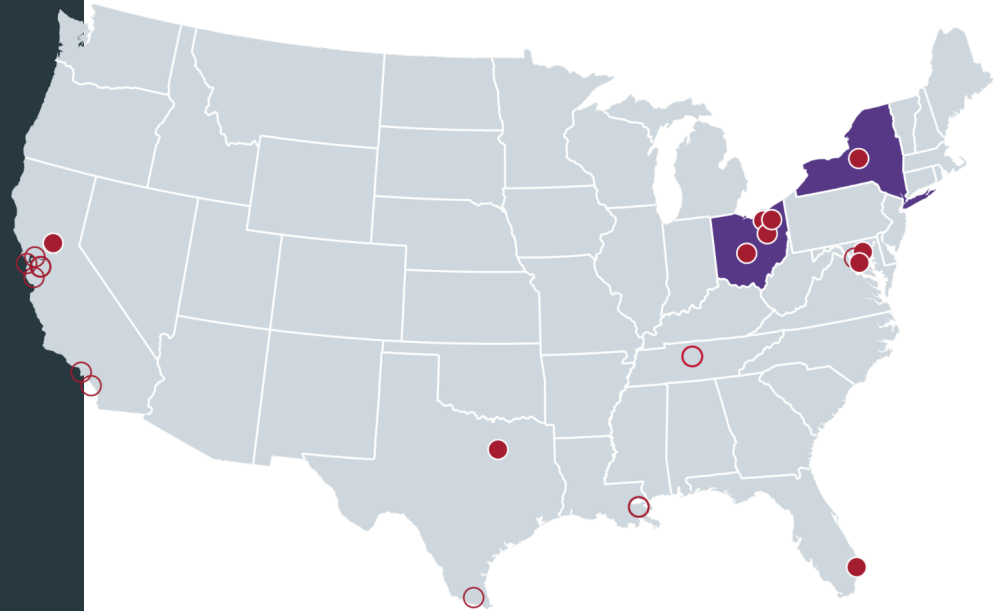
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## National Center for Rural Education Research Networks

- Ohio
  - 20 rural school districts
  - Ohio Department of Education Management Council
  - Regional Information Centers
- New York
  - 30 rural school districts
  - New York State Education Department
  - Information Technology Centers
  - BOCES



## Launching a network to build collective capacity



### Goals

- To provide districts with additional capacity in three areas: chronic absenteeism, college-readiness, and college enrollment.
- To build state (and regional) capacity to generate evidence and support in continuous improvement



### Outcomes

- Creating standard data feeds from regional centers (RICs / ITCs) to support rural districts ability to participate in NCRERN
- TBD on student outcomes

## Lesson 1

Be deliberate. Focus on resolving a problem (or need) rather than a concept



## Lesson 2

Be a supportive but agile partner.  
Practitioners guide the work and  
lead the change

## Lesson 3

Go slow(ish) to go faster. Take time to plan and design, giving yourself the highest likelihood to improve



## Lesson 4

Stay focused on improvement.  
Evidence is important, but it's a tool  
not an end



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