

POWER *of* PLACE

LEARNING COMMUNITIES



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It's the end of another school year, and it's tempting to close the door and move right into a well-deserved summer vacation. But before you do that, I want to urge you all to take some time to reflect on all that has transpired over the past academic year. The minutes, hours, and days were chock full of experiences – all of which have meaning, and could inform our future practice and who we continue to become as educators.

Reflection is a critical and highly underutilized tool for professional and personal growth. Education philosopher John Dewey wrote, reflection “emancipates us from merely impulsive and merely routine activity” (Dewey, 1933). Without reflection, Dewey

maintains, educators miss out on the meaning-making that enables them to fully meet the needs of their students.

Unfortunately, many think of reflection as being vague, and not worth making the time to do well. I strongly disagree. Authentic reflection is a systematic, rigorous, disciplined way of thinking, with clear roots in scientific inquiry. Dewey laid out what he considered to be six phases of reflection:

- Description of the experience itself
- Feelings and thoughts about the experience
- Analysis/evaluation of the problems or questions that arise out of the experience
- Generating possible explanations
- Turning the explanations into fleshed-out hypotheses
- Experimenting or testing the chosen hypothesis

These phases allow for a much deeper exploration than more general questions such as “what did I learn?” or “what could I have done better?”

It can be challenging to sit with the discomfort that arises from genuine reflection: recalling moments when we disappointed ourselves or others, when others disappointed us, when we have felt a sense of failure, when we were surprised by something that didn’t go as planned. It takes courage to sit in this space and stay there long enough to make meaning that can help to transform our professional practice and strengthen our personal identity.

The truth is that we all make mistakes, and we need to learn from them, but thankfully sorting them out does not have to be done in isolation. Reflecting *in community* cushions us during the inevitable confrontations with self and allows us to feel a greater sense of responsibility toward others.

This is precisely why ECLC is hosting our first ever Principal’s Day of Reflection on Wednesday, June 26, at the Wylie Inn and Conference Center. We will spend the day looking back on the 2023-2024 school year, thinking through what we learned, and looking ahead to the upcoming year. There will be time for individual and group reflection and, weather permitting, time for a walk on the beach to reflect on what it means to be part of a community of lifelong learners.

Principals, we hope you will join us next week for the Day of Reflection. And to everyone else, we urge you make time for your own meaningful end-of-year reflections and, of course, for much rest and renewal this summer. We’ll be slowing things down in July as well, and will see you again on these pages in August.

In community,
Jane

This Month in ECLC

JOIN US TO FINALIZE A MENTAL HEALTH & RESTORATIVE PRACTICES LEARNING SERIES

Over the past 12 months, student support professionals have been convening to discuss what is required to create a county-wide wellness infrastructure for youth.

Join your colleagues to:

- ✓ Offer feedback to finalize the desired series of adult learning experiences for SY 24-25;
- ✓ Brainstorm ways to recruit educators from across Essex County to engage in this work; and
- ✓ Discover that you are in good company in advocating for youth wellness! This is for anyone who cares about youth wellness, including:

Assistant Principals	Special Educators
School Resource Officers	Adjustment Counselors
Guidance Counselors	School Counselors
Social Workers	Family/Community Liaisons

Tuesday, June 18 | 3:30 to 5:30 pm
Wylie Inn & Conference Center

Register!



PRINCIPALS! JOIN US FOR A

DAY OF REFLECTION

What worked for you in 2023-24?

What will you do differently in 2024-25?

Come for conversation, inspiration,
motivation, and a walk on the beach

June 26 | 8-2 p.m.

Wiley Inn & Conference Center
Endicott College, Beverly

[Learn more](#)
& [register today!](#)



Secure Your Spot Now for ECLC Summer Institute

2024 ECLC
Summer Institute



Rekindling
the fire

*Join us for a day focused on sparking
motivation and driving engagement for
teaching, leading and learning.*



August 8 from 8-3 pm
Wylie Inn & Conference Center
Endicott College
Beverly, MA

REGISTER NOW



Let Your Voice Be Heard - Annual Member Survey

Help Us Shape the 2024-25 Learning Agenda



Each year we engage with ECLC partner district staff to help shape the ECLC Annual Learning Agenda. Our commitment to you is to provide professional learning experiences that address your most pressing needs and areas of interest. **To do so, we need your feedback!** Please take 5 minutes to complete [this survey](#) to help us refine and finalize the 2024–25 Annual Learning Agenda.

[Complete survey](#)

Upcoming Opportunity for Educators

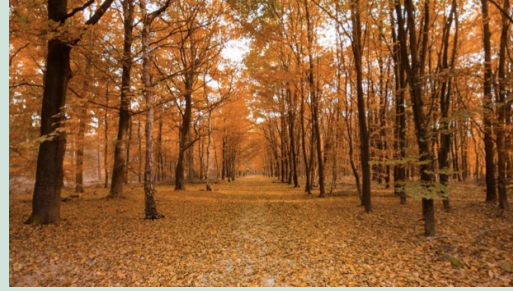


[Register Here!](#)

The Summer Institute at Landmark College has been an annual opportunity for education professionals to reboot their learning and refresh their enthusiasm for supporting students who learn differently. The event features nearly 40 years of Landmark College expertise in teaching students with learning disabilities, ADHD, and autism. Learn and network with small, focused groups of your peers. Get your voice heard and your questions answered. The Landmark College Summer Institute offers cutting-edge presentations with focused attention to participant questions.

Save the Date for Fall Gathering!

[ECLC 2024 Fall Gathering](#)



Follow Power of Place on Social Media

Power of Place is on LinkedIn and Facebook!

Follow us for photos, links to resources,
upcoming opportunities, and more.



Resources



How to Talk to Your Kids About Social Media

Dr. J. Stuart Ablon, founder and director of Think:Kids in the Department of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital, in partnership with the Shah Family Foundation, has announced the launch of How to Talk to Your Kids About Social Media, a free set of tools aimed at helping parents navigate critical conversations about social media with their kids. The initiative includes self-guided videos and prompts; a parent roundtable, guiding parents through a research-proven approach to this issue; a podcast featuring strategies for addressing real social media concerns; and a guide titled “How to Talk to Your Kids About Social Media” that walks parents step-by-step through the conversation with their kids.

Access the guide [here](#).



The Complex Braid of Brown: How Conceptualizations and Initiatives Within the African-American Community of Research, Practice and Activism Have Influenced the Advance of Knowledge and Practice in Education

This year, 2024, marks the 70th Anniversary of the landmark court decision in education which sought to end legal segregation, *Brown v. Board of Education*. At the time, the hope was that ending segregation would address the vast and deep inequities in educational resources by race that had long been the legacy of schooling in the United States. Getting to the *Brown* decision was a long, hard battle, fought by civil rights attorneys, but also by educators, social psychologists, and members of the Black community—parents and students.

Read the full paper [here](#).



North Dakota's Personalized Learning Journey Started Six



More Than a Seat at the Table Podcast

Years Ago – and They’re Not Done Yet

Beth Slette’s first year as superintendent of West Fargo Public Schools coincided with the first year the district joined a cohort of North Dakota districts committed to implementing personalized, competency-based learning.

“I don’t know how we would be where we are as a district today without the work of the last six years,” said Slette, who has been working in West Fargo schools for 17 years. Joined by Northern Cass School District, Oakes Public School District and the North Dakota Youth Correctional Center, West Fargo has been implementing learner-centered practices and building their capacity to scale and sustain personalized, competency-based learning.

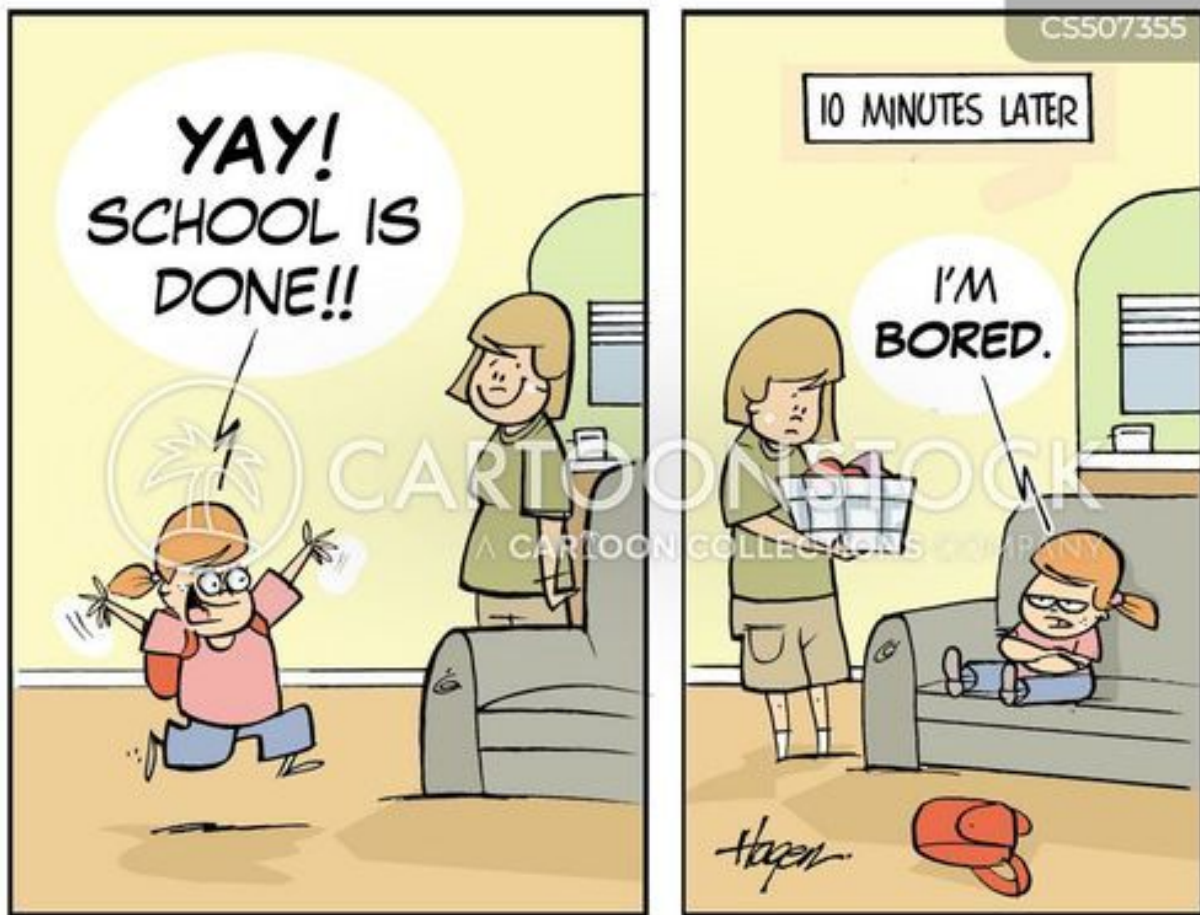
Read the full study [here](#).

More Than a Seat at the Table focuses on elevating their mission to diversify the New England educator workforce. The episodes address the stark underrepresentation of people of color in teaching and leadership roles across the education spectrum, from pre-K through university. They engage with key community members, from state educational agencies shaping policies to school district leaders implementing change on the ground and community support organizations forging connections that empower teachers of color.

Join the team on this compelling journey as we amplify DEW voices from the field, highlight effective DEW best practices, challenge assumptions, and advocate for a more inclusive educational landscape.

Listen to the podcast [here](#).

Just for Fun



Do you have something to share with your fellow educators?

Send it to us at info@powerofplacec.org.

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