AIMS Cross-Team Project Overview:
Supporting Research Practitioner Partnerships in AIMS

Project Description

Research-practitioner partnerships (RPPs) hold great promise for integrating the voices of diverse constituent groups and responding to the needs of those in practice. Within the AIMS Collaboratory, the intent of these partnerships is to ensure that a) technologies and instruction are responsive to the learning challenges, experiences, and outcomes for students of color and who experience poverty and b) the research conducted by teams addresses critical problems of practice, informing the teams and the broader field. Moreover, within AIMS, RPPs are critical to the careful and strategic development of R&D infrastructure that respects and answers to students, families, teachers, and school and district leaders, the ultimate consumers of all of the endeavors of the Collaboratory.

However, RPPs are challenging to launch and sustain. **The purpose of this project is to support partnership development (initial and long-term) within AIMS project teams to ensure that they are effectively supported in pursuing their goals, especially in developing approaches to teaching and learning that prioritize the learning challenges of priority students.** Participating teams will learn, within and across projects, how variation in the implementation of tools and instructional practices can more or less effectively encourage priority students' learning. Understanding this variation will inform scaling strategies relevant to all of the AIMS Collaboratory project teams.

This Collaboratory project aims to support AIMS RPPs develop a set of resources for teams as they initiate and deepen existing partnerships.

Activities

1. A series of workshops:
    a. Introducing key elements of long-term RPPs, with attention to the specific needs of AIMS teams and their ongoing partnerships. The workshop will ensure that practitioners' perspectives are included in and across all AIMS activities and will collaborate with the team working on the 'Translating Learning' cross-team project
    b. Introducing key indicators of effective partnerships
    c. Providing opportunities for teams to troubleshoot partnership challenges as they arise in real-time
    d. Providing opportunities for Collaboratory teams to learn from each other as they advance toward their project goals over time
2. Ongoing individual coaching to support teams to:

     a. Mine the experiences of expert of RPP-ers about pressing partnership challenges, drawing on years of experience and lessons from a network of partnerships

     b. Identify the unique challenges of AIMS partnerships, given their goals, including the development of a shared R&D infrastructure

     c. Reflect on their experiences and develop case studies describing effective strategies to be compiled and made available outside AIMS

3. An RPP playbook, developed from individual cases of AIMS RPPs to illustrate, for the broader field, promising partnership practices including challenges encountered as a function of:

     a. The age/stage of partnerships,

     b. The problems of practice identified through partnerships as critical to supporting math teaching and learning,

     c. Working across three distinct entities (research, practice, and development)

     d. The breadth of goals proposed by the partnerships