

Helping Northern California Schools Reach for the Upside in Challenging Times

The Reach for the Upside initiative invites public school districts and their community partners to workshop and implement tangible solutions to address challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic

Genentech and the Genentech Foundation, in collaboration with Stanford's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design (the d.school), is launching *Reach for the Upside* to help get Northern California school districts and families through these challenging times. We want those impacted to drive this work: district and school leadership and staff, teachers, school counselors, students, families, caregivers, and community partners.

How We Can Design Change Together

The initiative will begin in February with a design sprint of seven workshops with eight Northern California public school districts/collaboratives and three nonprofit education organizations to see what ideas they can generate to turn the constraints of the COVID-19 era into opportunities for students, teachers, and families.

The goal of this work is to advance student-centered learning, equity, and the well-being of students, teachers and families. Beyond the design sprint workshops, design teams will receive funding from Genentech and the Genentech Foundation, coaching from the d.school, and capacity-building support to implement an idea or innovation of their choice in the 2021 calendar year.

The workshops will be run by education specialists from the d.school, not to advise educators and their communities on what to do, but rather to provide a structured experience to identify opportunities, generate new ideas with users in mind (e.g. students, teachers, caregivers), quickly prototype and test them, and share results as a community of practice.

The workshops will include subject matter experts on:

- equity and culturally responsive family and community engagement (**NYU Metro Center**)
- bright spots from national districts that moved from crisis to opportunity (**The Education Trust - West**)
- social and emotional best practices (**California Department of Education**)
- accessible approaches to evaluating emerging ideas (**Results Lab**)

New concepts created by the design teams will be shared widely, with California districts and schools, the California Department of Education, policy makers, funders, the press, and others.

Funders Welcome

Reach for the Upside invites community foundations and other funders to join us in supporting and amplifying this work. Please contact reachfortheupside-d@gene.com for more information.