

BACKGROUND

What are the Learning Sciences?

Learning sciences focuses on the why, what, and how of learning.

Learning scientists...

- explore the possibilities of technology to augment learning
- investigate the social and emotional factors that drive learning
- investigate how people learn and use research to improve learning opportunities for all

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Allows for Agency and Choice

The course is modular, organizations can choose what modules they use. Participants personalize their experience by choosing their project focus.

Helps Educators Learn in their Situation and Context

Learning should be personal. The course facilitation helps educators apply learning sciences principles and continually think about LS research in their own context. Educators also work with other educators to share and learn.

Free, and Open Resources

Continually updated with the latest research and high quality free and open resources.

Focuses on Learning

Moving beyond classroom management and student engagement; participants think about what learning means, how it looks, how it happens.

Empowers Educators & Informs Researchers

Educators who have an understanding of learning help students, other educators, and researchers.

Learning Sciences Course

RESEARCH TO PRACTICE & PRACTICE TO RESEARCH

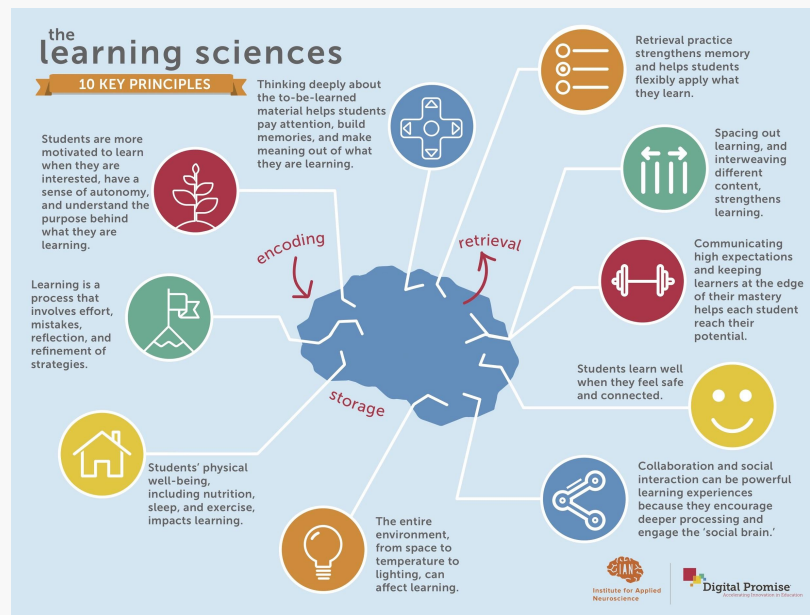
The LS Research group and a team of practitioners has co-designed this modular course.

The course is designed to support the design and improvement of innovative classroom or makerspace activities, and technology use.

What needs does your district have? Where would the course fit in your district?

Topics in the Learning Sciences Course

- Debunking Myths: Looking at Evidence
- Motivation from different perspectives (neuroscience, emotional, cognitive, psychological, sociocultural)
- Identity, Belonging, Power, Privilege, Biases, and Funds of Knowledge
- Turning Collaboration into Convergent Conceptual Change
- Active Learning, Acquiring Knowledge, and Formative Assessment



The course can be aligned to any project or subject area because learning occurs everywhere.

WHY LEARNING SCIENCES?

The Learning Sciences are not usually shared with teachers in their preparation programs. Teachers who take the course say they wish they could have sooner.

Learning is dependent on local context and the Learning Sciences gives educators tools & resources to help them:

- Understand why things work & don't work
- Gain pedagogical content knowledge insights
- Develop a common language to talk to other teachers & researchers
- Contribute important practice-based knowledge to research
- Experiment with new research-based methods & designs in their classrooms; share back to the research field & others
- Distinguish cognitive and sociocultural issues and learn strategies to more effectively address them

EFFECTIVE PL

This course is intentionally designed to promote effective professional learning by including these 8 elements as identified by Darling-Hammond, Hymler, & Gardner 2017; Desimone, 2011.

1. Content focus
2. Active learning
3. Collegial collaboration
4. Models & modeling
5. Coaching & expert support
6. Feedback & reflection opportunities
7. Sustained duration
8. Coherence to school & district work