



JUNE HARLESS
CENTER

DESIGN THINKING FOR EDUCATORS

WHAT IS DESIGN THINKING?

Although multiple definitions and processes exist, at its core, design thinking is a problem solving process that empowers users to address complex, human-centered challenges by stepping into stakeholders' perspectives, brainstorming bold ideas, and prototyping, testing, and iterating innovative solutions. While commonly used by businesses to elevate their brand and enhance customer experience, this process also has immense potential in education.

OVERVIEW

Problems of practice in education are nuanced, dynamic, and require creative interventions. Design thinking offers a way to tackle these adaptive challenges and generate delightful, user-centered solutions. From driving problem-based learning in classrooms, improving the experiences of teachers/students/stakeholders, and serving as a framework for collaborative, system-wide improvement, design thinking provides a powerful approach for educators in a variety of roles to reimagine challenges and co-create meaningful solutions.

APPROACH

CLASSROOM LEVEL

Ignite a classroom culture of inquiry where students become problem finders and solvers. Discover how design thinking enables students to experience, explore, and collaborate to apply core knowledge to solve messy, real-world problems while refining transferable skills they'll use for life.

SCHOOL LEVEL

Explore how design thinking can help school leaders and teachers collaborate to improve student and teacher experiences—not by adding another task, but by refining what already exists. Expand capacity to uncover real needs, design solutions with (not for) stakeholders, and create meaningful, sustainable improvements tailored to your school.

DISTRICT LEVEL

Employ design thinking tools and protocols to approach district challenges systematically, while prioritizing the needs of those most affected. The Design Thinking framework can foster collaboration and innovation as well as enhance existing initiatives such as new teacher induction/mentoring programs and delivering professional learning that reflects teacher voice.

[Contact us](#) to learn more about how we can aid design thinking in your system. Through ongoing professional learning, participants will be immersed in design thinking loops that are authentic to their role, context, and practice.