



WHAT IS REMAKE LEARNING?

remake 
learning

Remake Learning is a network that ignites engaging, relevant, and equitable learning practices in support of young people navigating rapid social and technological change.

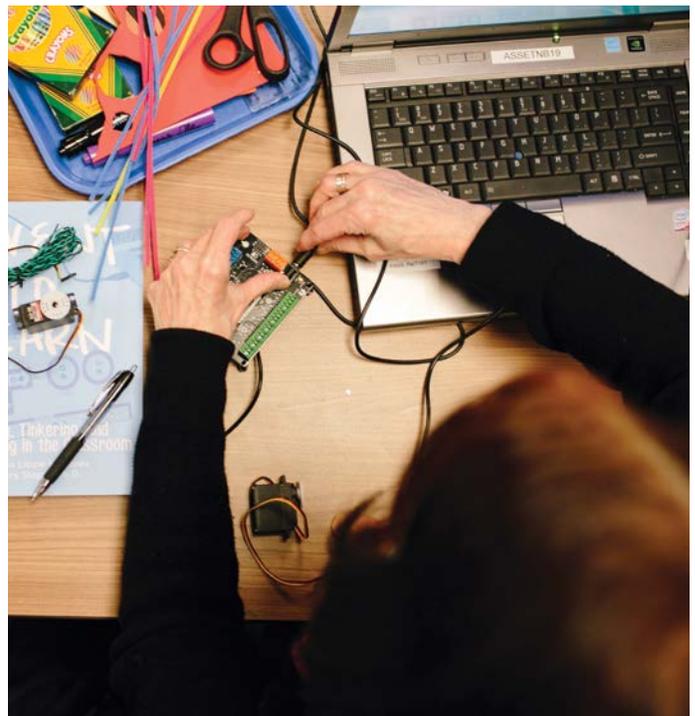
Our **network**, established in 2007, is an open group of interconnected, creative, and innovative people and organizations in the greater Pittsburgh region. Our purpose is to spark and share best practices and new ideas, make it easier for neighbors and colleagues to help each other, reduce duplicative efforts in the region, and leverage resources collectively for greater impact. No one organization alone can transform teaching and learning to better serve today's young people, so Remake Learning helps bring them together.

“Remake Learning is about connecting people from different silos who never would have connected without it.”

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER
AND REMAKE LEARNING NETWORK MEMBER**

When learning is **engaging**, learners have the time, resources, support, environment, and encouragement to be active problem-solvers, creators, innovators, advocates, and citizens.

When learning is **relevant**, it resonates today with a learner's interests, culture, context, community, identity, abilities, and experiences, while allowing room for exposure and growth. It also prepares learners for the future, in which interdisciplinary skills like creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration will be increasingly salient.



When learning is **equitable**, more supports and opportunities are afforded to those of greatest need. Based on national and regional research*, this means particular attention is paid to working alongside, as well as uplifting and supporting the voices, strength, and potential of: learners in poverty; learners of color; learners in rural areas; girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math); and learners with exceptionalities.



“If we change the curriculum to address real problems in our lives, kids will pay attention. How is this going to be relevant to my outside life? How is this going to be helpful to me?”

9TH GRADE LEARNER FROM PITTSBURGH



What do we mean when we say we want to “Remake Learning?”

Problem Statement: Why Remake Learning?

We are living in a time of remarkable change. From the way our cities work to the way our brains develop, everything about our world stands to be revised, redefined, and remade. “This is the story of social, economic, and technological change in the 21st century,” notes a report** from the KnowledgeWorks Foundation. “We are not following a clear path at a steady clip; we are speeding on an uncertain track at an exponential pace.”

These changes mean that young people today are frequent users of digital tools and media. As a result, some research, including from Carnegie Mellon University’s BrainHub, suggests that they are experiencing different patterns of brain development than previous generations. *In what ways should teaching and learning, both in- and out-of-school, change as well to **engage** today’s kids?*

We also know that despite these developmental, technological, and societal changes, one institution has largely remained stagnant. Save for a few tweaks, America’s education model is a relic of the bygone factory era: A time when efficiency and repetition were valued above all, with a focus on basic knowledge and skills.

*How do we work together to rethink our learning institutions to make them more **relevant** and help them prepare learners for an undefined, complex, yet exciting future?*

Finally, we know that our current educational structures and systems have been unable to close opportunity gaps between marginalized populations (learners in poverty; learners of color; learners in rural areas; girls in STEM; and learners with exceptionalities) and their peers. Continued stagnation in our educational model threatens to widen these gaps as technological and societal change accelerates. *How can innovations in teaching and learning create more **equitable** opportunities and outcomes for young people?*

Remake Learning members collaborate to wrestle with these questions and create new projects and programs that “Remake Learning” for the young people of today and the contexts of tomorrow. *What can we do collectively to “Remake Learning” in order to best serve this generation and generations to come?*



“We are rapidly entering a new era in which our economy, our institutions, and our societal structures—indeed, the very bedrock of our lives—are shifting at an accelerating pace.”



“Learners are solving for, advocating for, and building for what purpose? How do we ‘remake learning’ for a more just and equitable society?”

FUNDER AND REMAKE LEARNING MEMBER

A Vision for the Future of Learning in the Greater Pittsburgh Region

We envision a future in which the creative members of Remake Learning **support each other to ensure** that learning is engaging, relevant, and equitable across projects, organizations, and programs.

In the greater Pittsburgh region, learning practices and environments will:

- Activate skills in **critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, communication, and collaboration** so that learners are prepared for an increasingly technology-driven future. Learners are empowered to identify and solve problems that affect themselves and their communities; to fail, retry, and learn from mistakes; to express their creativity in authentic ways; and to both struggle and have fun.
- Challenge learners to **question, examine, and dissect social systems**; to develop the confidence to address and deconstruct inequalities; and to construct a more just and equitable world.
- Connect **all the places learners live, work, and play**, including schools, libraries, museums, parks, clubs, community centers, centers of faith, at home, and online.
- Encourage learners to **explore and play** and support them to **follow their curiosity** using varied tools (including, but not limited to, technologies).
- Derive from **deep and caring relationships** between learners and their families, peers, educators, and mentors.
- Connect learners to their communities and, in an interconnected world, help learners **develop cross-cultural understandings** that unlock opportunities to thrive both within and beyond their own communities.

“Technology is a tool but you don’t have to use technology (to Remake Learning).”

IN-SCHOOL EDUCATOR
AND REMAKE LEARNING
MEMBER

“Being part of a network carries weight. There’s an expectation in a network that there’s both something you bring and receive.”

OUT-OF-SCHOOL EDUCATOR
AND REMAKE LEARNING
MEMBER

“Remake Learning is a connected community of resources and that’s inspiring. If I need something, I can find somebody that can connect me there in the Network.”

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR
AND REMAKE LEARNING MEMBER

How can a person or organization become a part of Remake Learning?

To become a part of Remake Learning, simply add yourself and your organization to the Remake Learning Directory by visiting www.remakelarning.org/join.

You will be asked to upload a photo and answer a few short questions. It should take no more than 10 minutes.

What are the expectations of Remake Learning members?

To be considered part of the Remake Learning network and appear on www.remakelarning.org, you must be open to:

- Holding yourself and other network members accountable to the mission and vision.
- Being contacted by other network members.
- Following network values. This means interacting with other members in ways that are:
 - Creative and Innovative: We support inventive solutions and imaginative approaches to learning.
 - Collaborative and Cooperative: We work in multidisciplinary teams in mutual support of shared goals and objectives.
 - Accessible and Open: We promote the productive exchange of ideas and opportunities and welcome the opportunity to share our knowledge and expertise.
 - Inclusive: We value and prioritize the voices of those that comprise the global majority, yet are often marginalized in American society.
 - Experimental, Catalytic, and Transformative: We test promising new ideas with the power to advance learning.
 - Flexible and Future-Focused: We respond to the ever-changing needs of children and youth.
 - Trusting of Youth: We trust the youth of today to experiment, play, work together, solve problems, lead, advocate, and follow their curiosity.
 - Positive and Respectful: We are kind to learners and collaborators.
 - Playful and Accepting: We are accepting of one another, as well as encouraging, exciting, welcoming, and inspiring!

What does Remake Learning do for its members?

Remake Learning is a greater Pittsburgh regional network, not an organization. Its strength is derived from its members. Members are supported, however, with several staff positions that create a network **infrastructure** in order to:

Catalyze equitable, engaging, and relevant approaches to learning;

Communicate stories of children, youth, families, and practitioners;

Convene diverse people and organizations creating equitable, engaging, and relevant learning;

Coordinate activities to reduce duplication and leverage resources; and

Champion best practices.

This infrastructure extends the capacity for network members to innovate and improve their learning practices by providing “connective tissue” and perspective beyond one’s own organization, as well as adding capacity for organizations to more easily partner with one another.

Learn more about how the network functions at www.remakelarning.org/playbook.

Why become a member of Remake Learning?

Remake Learning members gain access to the infrastructure that the network provides. In order to be eligible for catalytic grant funding, participate in working groups, take advantage of and be featured in network communications, and more, you must be a member of the Remake Learning network.

Where is Remake Learning?

Remake Learning members reside in the greater Pittsburgh region, which includes the counties of Allegheny, Butler, Beaver, Westmoreland, Greene, Fayette, and Washington in Pennsylvania, as well as parts of north-central West Virginia.

To learn more about Remake Learning,
please visit RemakeLearning.org

and/or contact

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Thank you to each of the over 100 individuals who hosted and/or participated in roundtable conversations to recreate the mission, vision, and values for Remake Learning, as well as everyone who contributed their thoughts virtually.

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*These participants are listed with the organization they represented at the time the roundtable was conducted, and have since changed positions and/or organizational affiliation.

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These participants did not participate in roundtable conversations in person, but they gave thoughts on this document via the online Google Document or via email.

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Citations

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- **
Prince, K., & Swanson, J. (2015). *The Future of Learning: Education in the Era of Partners in Code*. KnowledgeWorks. Retrieved from <http://www.knowledgeworks.org/future-forecast-4>