Educators and researchers are invited to participate in the design and implementation of an innovative equity-focused research process that positions Black and Latinx educators as research leaders. Applications are due Friday, July 31, 2020.

Black and Latinx educators must be better supported to lead conversations about improving educational practice, in particular for Black and Latinx youth. Their experiences, points of view, challenges, and curiosities must be centered in research that informs learning decisions and innovations.

Educational research is typically driven, however, by the needs and objectives of researchers who bring their questions, gather data, and leave with the learnings. Too often, those learnings do not return to serve the very educators and students who informed the research.

This initiative aims to shift these traditional power dynamics that are inherent in many research and development (R&D) infrastructures. By providing connections, resources, and a platform, this initiative will position Black and Latinx educators to directly influence local R&D in education. As we learn together, this process will hopefully inform equity-centered R&D processes nationwide.

“If we do not address the power dynamic in the creation of research, at best, we are driving decision-making from partial truths. At worst, we are generating inaccurate information that ultimately does more harm than good in our communities. This is why we must care about how research is created.”

— Chicago Beyond
THE EXPERIENCE

Shifting Power in Educational Research and Development (“Shifting Power”) is a collaborative initiative between Remake Learning and the University of Pittsburgh School of Education funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The initiative will pair 20 Black and Latinx educators with 20 researchers across institutions in Western Pennsylvania. Together, these teams will co-develop and implement research projects in the educators' learning spaces. With the support of their research partner and a deeply place-based, emancipatory R&D infrastructure (based on the work of Dr. Temple Lovelace), participating educators will be positioned to lead and solve their own problems of practice. Research teams will collaborate to produce outputs such as specific practices, products, services, processes, technologies, materials, software, data, other innovations. A general timeline follows.

INVITATION TO APPLY

Participating educators and researchers will engage throughout the 2020-21 school year.

Educators: We invite any Black or Latinx educator who provides ongoing direct educational service to children in grades PreK-12 in either a school or an out-of-school setting to apply. This includes classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, homeschooling parents, year-round after-school providers, teaching artists, and youth workers. Educators must be local to the greater Pittsburgh region. Educator participants will receive a stipend of $5,000 (taxable income).
Researchers: We invite any researcher of teaching and learning in grades PreK-12 to apply. This includes university-based researchers and learning scientists, employees of research organizations, members of non-profit organization research teams, and individual researchers who have the ability to engage with an educator partner through a research and practice lens to produce an output (e.g., practices, materials, processes, technologies, data, other innovations). Researchers must be local to the greater Pittsburgh region or have the ability to commute for the necessary face-to-face convenings and observations of the learning environment. A record of publication is preferred but not required. Some funding will be available to support each research team in designing, implementing, and proposing ways to sustain the projects.

Participation for educators and researchers will involve:

- Observations of the learning environment and communication between research team partners (educator and researcher) to collaboratively surface and explore problems of practice as identified by the educator.
- Monthly check-in and technical assistance meetings (up to 3 hours per month) with the Shifting Power project team and other research teams.
- Three full or half-day convenings in the fall 2020 (Saturday, October 10 and two other dates to be announced) to learn, connect, and explore issues of equity in research and development.
- One closing reflection and iteration session in late spring 2021.
- Responding to surveys and requests from the Shifting Power project team to document the overall experience and R&D processes.

Through this experience, educators and researchers alike will have opportunities to grow in their racial consciousness. Participants must be curious and open to critically evaluate issues of bias, racism, and equity.

Applications are due Friday, July 31, 2020. Access the online application and other materials at [https://remakelearning.org/shifting-power/](https://remakelearning.org/shifting-power/). A virtual information session will be hosted on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 from 1-2pm ET, with a recording made available online afterwards. Applicants will be notified whether they have been accepted into the initiative by Friday, August 14, 2020.

Please contact Allyce Pinchback-Johnson at allyce@remakelearning.org with any questions.