A New Narrative:

How Unlocking the Power of R&D Through Inclusive Innovation Can Transform Education

In 2020, the Digital Promise [Center for Inclusive Innovation](#) embarked on a journey to explore a central question:

"What if the solution to inequities in education resides in foundational shifts—in mindsets, in proximity, in collaborations— and, ultimately, in the co-research and development of equitable powerful learning **with those who are most impacted?**"

Since its inception, the Center for Inclusive Innovation has purposefully engaged communities—students, families, educators, and organizers—in co-leadership, co-research, and the co-design of solutions alongside district leaders, researchers, and developers to address education's most pressing equity challenges.

By starting with those who are most proximate to these challenges, the Center's Inclusive Innovation model seeks to build the capacity of districts and communities across the country to participate in research and development (R&D) to dramatically improve opportunity and outcomes for our nation's learners.

What Happens When Districts and Communities Engage in Inclusive Innovation?

Barriers start to dissolve
as districts and communities identify opportunities to partner to address inequities.

District leaders
who engage in shared leadership and decision-making foster systems of learning and belonging.

Teachers & parents
support student learning by becoming collaborators and co-designers.

Students
who are proximate to challenges have opportunities to showcase leadership and innovativeness when they co-create their educational experiences in partnership with district leaders, principals, and teachers.

New Ways of Thinking, Collaborating, and Creating

For far too long, the education sector has invested in frameworks, tools, models, and technologies that have been researched and developed *outside* of schools and communities. Ultimately, however, little improvement or progress has been achieved for learners who are historically and systematically excluded.

The depth of district and community co-leadership—and the significance of the solutions that have emerged over the past three years—demonstrates how the Inclusive Innovation approach provides a new path for schools and communities to move forward as partners in support of student well-being, agency, and success by *centering* the voices of those most impacted by these solutions.

"A New Narrative: How Unlocking the Power of R&D through Inclusive Innovation Can Transform Education" shares the stories, solutions, outcomes, and learnings from years of deep collaboration in the words of students, parents, teachers, and district leaders who have worked together to tackle education challenges—and discusses how the Center for Inclusive Innovation is building upon this work with the Inclusive Innovation 2.0 model.

Read the full white paper at digitalpromise.org/ANewNarrative

Elevating the Ingenuity of School Districts and Communities to Co-Create Innovative Solutions

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