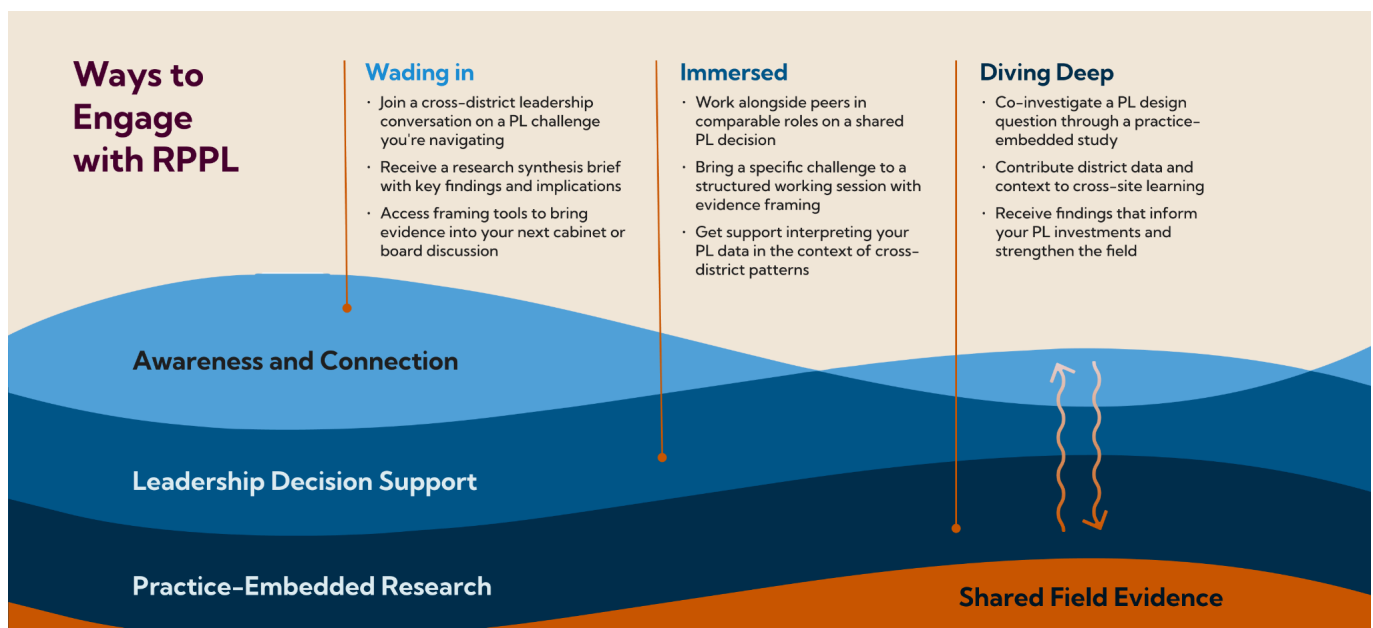


## Who We Are

District leaders are making high-stakes professional learning (PL) decisions with limited cross-district evidence and few structured spaces for peer reasoning. The Research Partnership for Professional Learning (RPPL) was created to change that. We are a collective of PL organizations, researchers, school systems, and funders working to understand what makes PL effective for teachers and equitable for students. Our network includes over 150 PL organizations, 16 district affiliates across eight states, and university research teams at Brown and Harvard.

RPPL's growing research portfolio is already informing how districts invest in coaching, how states structure PL systems, and how the field understands what it takes to improve instruction at scale. The challenges you navigate shape the questions our research pursues, and the evidence we generate supports leaders like you in making those decisions with greater confidence.

## Ways for System Leaders to Engage with RPPL



### Pathway 1: Leadership Decision Support

Structured peer exchanges with role-alike leaders (chiefs of teaching and learning, PL directors, research leads) focused on the decisions that shape your system of professional learning, including how you invest in coaching, build coherence across PL initiatives, measure what's working, and navigate emerging challenges like AI integration. You work through a specific PL challenge with evidence framing and peer perspective. You access rapid evidence synthesis when you need defensible framing for a board presentation or budget decision. You walk away with sharper questions and language to bring back to your cabinet.

#### Already underway

In March 2026, over 50 district leaders from 16 districts across 12 states joined RPPL's first virtual leadership conversation. Leaders worked in role-alike groups on tradeoffs like sustaining coaching investments under

budget pressure and balancing teacher choice with system-wide alignment. Participants described bringing sharper questions and framing directly back to their senior teams.

## Pathway 2: Practice-Embedded Research

Partner with RPPL and university researchers to embed shared measures in your existing coaching and instructional routines. Contribute to cross-district evidence while receiving findings that inform your own decisions. Engagements are co-designed, time-bounded, and grounded in your context.

### Already underway

In Oregon, RPPL is exploring a partnership with thirteen districts, OSU researchers, and the state department of education to study PL for teachers of multilingual learners, with a focus on identifying effective instructional practices for MLLs, adapting shared measures for MLL populations, and surfacing cross-district learning. Separately, 6 districts across the U.S. are co-designing shared measures of CBPL in math with RPPL through a Gates Foundation-supported initiative.

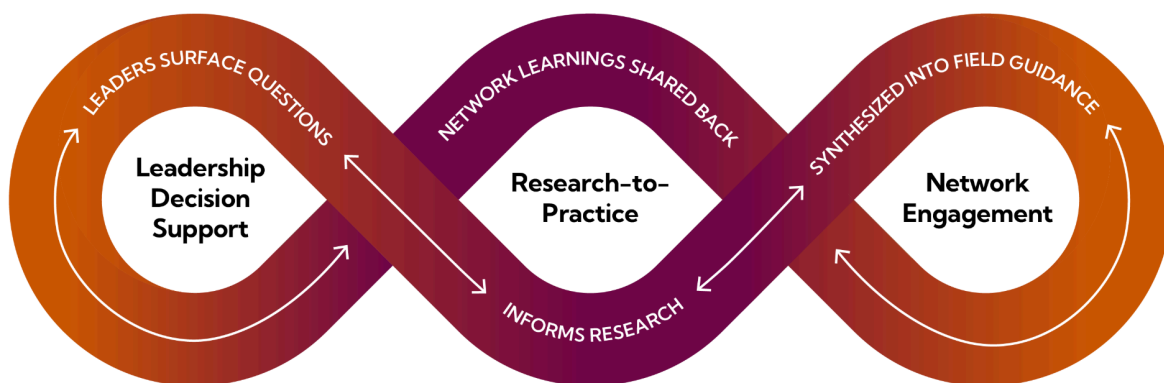
## What RPPL's Research Is Already Producing

Across studies, RPPL is building an evidence base that helps leaders strengthen PL as an integrated system. Recent findings include:

**Teacher agency in PL:** Montgomery County Public Schools used findings from an RPPL study to redesign how 8,000 teachers receive PL, drawing on evidence about how teacher choice fits within a system-wide approach to engagement and instructional change.

**PL spending:** RPPL's national analysis of district PL investment gives leaders the first field-level benchmarks for reasoning about how to allocate limited resources across their PL system during a period of significant fiscal pressure. The accompanying interactive map has been accessed by hundreds of system leaders across the country.

## Your Questions Strengthen the Field



Every engagement fits within your existing planning, budgeting, and governance cycles. The challenges you surface feed directly into a research agenda shared by 150+ organizations, and what the network learns comes back as evidence and tools that strengthen how your district approaches PL as a whole.

**To learn more or explore engagement:** Dr. Nitika Tolani (Managing Director of Learning and Engagement), [ntolani@rpplpartnership.org](mailto:ntolani@rpplpartnership.org) | Dr. Stacey Alicea (Executive Director), [salicea@rpplpartnership.org](mailto:salicea@rpplpartnership.org) | [rpplpartnership.org](http://rpplpartnership.org)