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*Elevating the Education Experience*

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**Vision** - All schools are vibrant, inclusive ecosystems that ensure every student thrives in school, work and life.

**Mission** - GSN co-creates healthy school ecosystems by partnering with educators, students, families and communities to elevate the education experience.

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## Good News!



**You're Invited!**

### **Grassroots Statewide Principal PLC Coming Soon!**

If you would appreciate the opportunity to join a guided, monthly 60-90 minute opportunity to learn from and collaborate with other principals across the state throughout the school year, we have the offering for you! Generation Schools Network and the Colorado Rural Education Collaborative are collaborating to bring you this opportunity during the 2021-2022 school year. Being a principal is one of the most challenging jobs that exists and we want to make sure you aren't leading alone!

The format will include:

- light guidance from highly experienced principals,
- opportunities to ask questions and learn from one another in discussion groups or through consultancy protocols,
- exposure to conversations across the state,
- new opportunities for you, your students, families, and teachers you may not have been aware of,

- the opportunity to attend every time or as often as it works for you or your team!

The trajectory for monthly sessions will be responsive to participant needs and generally follow the school year calendar. Potential topics include Family Engagement Strategies, College and Career Readiness, and STEM.

To receive monthly Zoom invitations and submit topics, please enter your information [here](#).

### **GSN to Embed The Social Capital Playbook in Pathways to Prosperity Work**

Beginning this fall, GSN will come alongside districts/schools involved in Pathways to Prosperity efforts (College and Career Readiness) to help them embed and integrate *The Social Capital Playbook*. According to developers, The Christensen Institute: its intent is to "help K-12 and postsecondary leadership and nonprofits that work with those institutions to implement and adapt strategies, tools, and metrics that



build and strengthen their students' networks in support of their well-being and with the aim of expanding their postsecondary and career options." GSN's CEO, Wendy Loloff Cooper supported playbook development in preparation for utilizing the materials to guide local stakeholders in selecting and incorporating intentional strategies to build student's social capital in pursuit of their career goals. You can find the playbook [here](#). If you're interested in learning more about how to incorporate the playbook into your college/career readiness work with students, contact Elliot Zettas, Sr. Manager of College and Career Readiness at [ezettas@generationschools.org](mailto:ezettas@generationschools.org).

### **Wend Collective Supports I-76 Districts Pathways to Prosperity Efforts in Centering Student Voice**

Thanks to the Wend Collective for awarding a grant in support of the I-76 District Collaborative's Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) work. Specifically, the grant supports the incorporation of student and family voice through:

- student advisory board development
- quarterly family convenings
- career certificates for students in social media.



GSN continues to receive requests from districts and schools for its college and career readiness project, Pathways to Prosperity, and is always looking for additional supporters that want to help bring this program to schools. To learn more about GSN's P2P program, visit [our website](#). To discover how you or your organization can support this program, contact Ali Lauge, Vice President of Development and Partnerships at [alauge@generationschools.org](mailto:alauge@generationschools.org).

## GSN Selected as Non-Profit Partner for Impact Denver Community Project



Generation Schools Network was selected by the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation to be a community partner for Impact Denver's 2021 Fall Cohort. The Impact Denver team will provide guidance, thought partnership, and support for GSN's College and Career Readiness programs, specifically connecting businesses to teachers and schools in support of the Real-World Problem Solving Scenarios. GSN values the opportunity to partner with organizations like Impact Denver to provide in-kind and skills-based volunteer support. To learn more about these types of opportunities, please contact Ali Lauge, Vice President of Development and Partnerships at [alauge@generationschools.org](mailto:alauge@generationschools.org).

## Coal Train Capstone Launches in Trinidad School District



**TRINIDAD**  
School District Number 1

GSN supported Trinidad School District (TSD) in preparing for board adoption of its "Coal Train Capstone". In response to state requirements, the capstone was developed to provide an equitable and experiential learning activity for the graduating class of 2022. In Colorado, high school graduates must fulfill their district and the state's graduation requirements. The COVID-19 pandemic amplified learning loss for many students in TSD resulting in a need for additional learning opportunities to satisfy graduation requirements. The Colorado Department of Education allows school districts to design a capstone project that must be approved by the local school board. Dr. Bonnie Aaron (TSD Superintendent), Ashleigh Ackerman (TSD High School Counselor), and Elliot Zettas (GSN Sr. Manager) created and presented the capstone on July 2021 with a resounding 5-0 approval by the board. Through the capstone, students will complete a year-long, multifaceted project. To learn more, read about the highlights in the local news *Chronicle*, click [here](#).

## New Social Emotional Learning Units Available in Our Online Store! Get your FREE downloads for the 2021-2022 school year.



Each of these units is now available with student-facing materials in Spanish!

- *MS Protecting Our Privacy*: During this unit, students will focus on privacy protection, and learn how to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate online disclosure, how to protect themselves from deceptive practices, and reasons to avoid sexting.
- *ES Effective Communication for Healthy Relationships*: This unit will provide elementary-aged students with foundational skills to build and sustain positive relationships with peers, adults, and family members. Students will develop communication skills, learn to differentiate between **positive and negative relationship** behaviors, explore **conflict** resolution strategies.
- *HS Healthy Relationships*: During this unit, students will explore five key practices of healthy relationships: self-compassion, empathy, trust, effective communication, and consent.
- *ES Social Awareness*: Introducing elementary school students to social awareness competencies, this unit will cover the following topics: social norms, empathy, understanding multiple perspectives, appreciation of differences, and support systems. The unit will culminate in a group project inviting students to collaborate with one another to express gratitude to a teacher or staff member.
- *MS Effective Communication for Healthy Relationships*: During this unit, students will work on effective communication, which is the ability to calmly and clearly communicate their message.
- *HS Self-Awareness and Self-Regulation*: By reflecting on personal experiences, values, and thought processes, students will develop the ability to analyze, synthesize, think critically, and achieve a positive sense of self. Such competencies are crucial for postsecondary successes.
- *HS Collaboration and Teamwork*: This unit offers students the opportunity to acquire and practice effective collaboration and teamwork skills.
- *ES Physical Activity*: In this unit, elementary students will explore not only the benefits of physical activity, but also learn to better and more easily incorporate it into their daily lives.



If you'd like to learn more about implementing these units in your schools, contact Ellen Sarkisian, Senior Project Manager at [esarkisian@generationschools.org](mailto:esarkisian@generationschools.org).

### Welcoming New GSN Staff!

#### Jeff Fuller

Jeff recently joined Generation Schools Network as a Senior Education Specialist and is working as a Turnaround Leadership Coach. Jeff has 30 years of experience in K-12 education in Arizona, ranging from teaching music to assistant principal and principal at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Jeff has also served as a director of school improvement at the district

level, superintendent, and consultant with WestEd and the University of Virginia. He has presented at education conferences throughout the U.S. and China.



## Upcoming Events!

**August 17th, 4:00-5:30 MT**

### **How to Support Teachers' SEL Growth (Webinar)**

This session will give teachers resources to help build their emotional capacity, coping strategies toolkit, and resilience so that they can better care for themselves in and out of the classroom as well as serve their students more effectively. Strategies around building resilience and gratitude will be shared in addition to self-care activities and resources.



To register, click [here](#).



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