Global Education Partnership Opportunities

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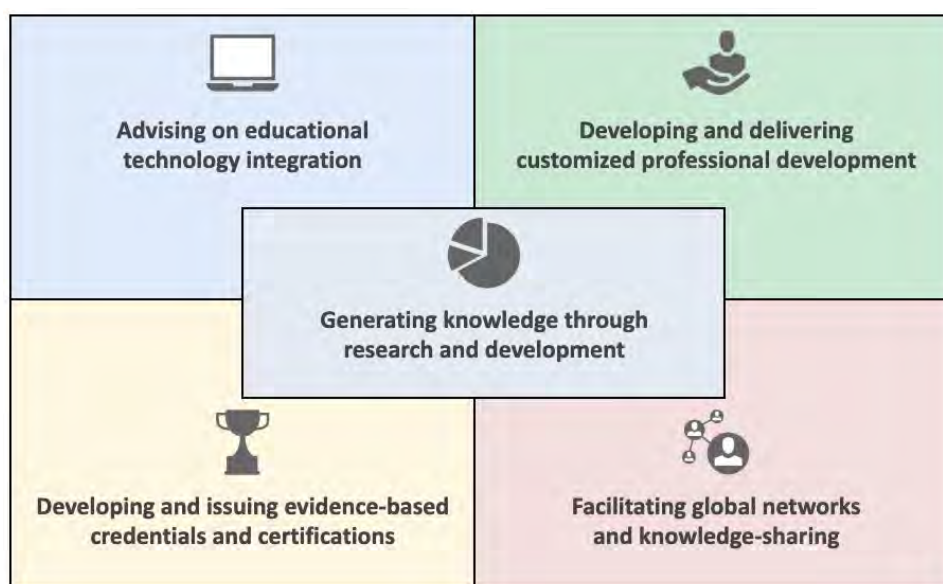
About Digital Promise

Digital Promise is a global nonprofit working to expand opportunity for every learner. We shape the future of teaching and learning and advance equitable education systems by bringing together cutting-edge **research**, **technology** tools and resources, and substantial **networks** connecting and supporting the most forward-thinking leaders in education.

Our Global Education Practice

Digital Promise's research, frameworks, and products reach thousands of educators and learners across the world. Our Global Education Practice is bringing together a diverse global coalition reimagining education to shape the future of learning and build equitable systems in five key ways:

Working Together

Partnering with Digital Promise means:
- Advancing the latest learning sciences research in schools and classrooms across the globe.
- Helping networks of educators design learning experiences that meet the needs of each learner.
- Supporting educators to use and sustain technology in meaningful ways that benefit learners.

Interested in learning more or discussing opportunities for collaboration?
Please reach out to: global@digitalpromise.org.

Global Partnership Opportunities

Within these thematic areas, we offer a range of opportunities to support global partners to meet their educational goals:

1. **Research and development (R&D)**
   - Conducting research-practitioner partnerships to study how people learn and enhance learning opportunities, including via emerging technologies.
   - Working together to create inclusive R&D processes to support school districts, researchers, entrepreneurs, and community-based organizations in addressing local challenges.

2. **Networks and knowledge-sharing**
   - Helping learners, educators, and system leaders to share knowledge across borders through in-person convenings, virtual exchanges, and collaborative reports.

3. **Educational technology**
   - Advising and supporting national governments and agencies to develop and implement strategies around educational technology integration.
   - Partnering with schools and communities to co-design and utilize custom blended learning models.

4. **Professional development**
   - Developing and delivering customized professional development opportunities focused on blended learning, challenge-based learning, learner variability and learning disabilities, global competence, and leadership capacity.
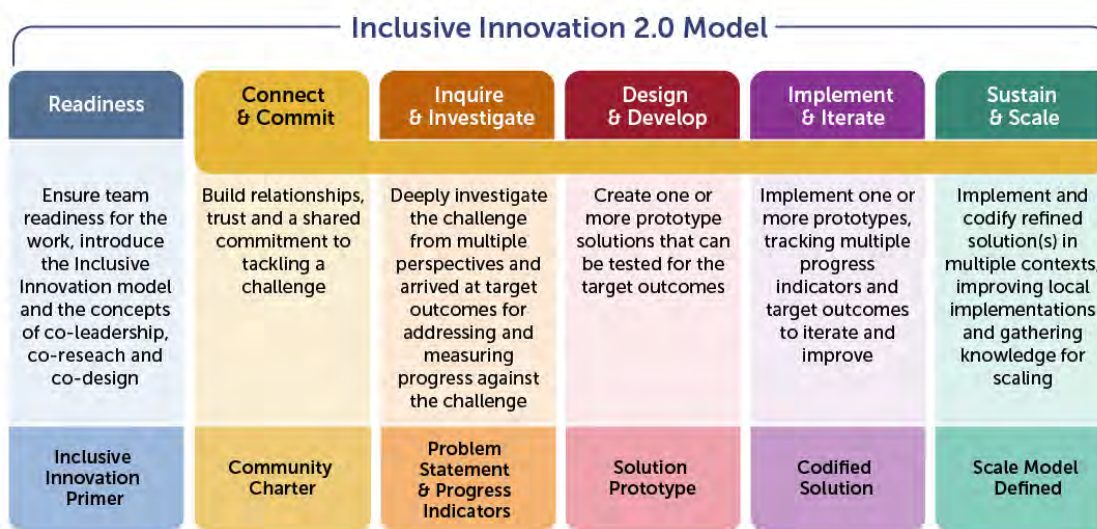
5. **Credentials and certifications**
   - Supporting organizations and institutions to develop and issue evidence-based micro-credentials to meet their professional development needs.
   - Supporting issuing partners to design and implement certifications for educational technology products.

1. Generating Knowledge through Research and Development

Our Centers of Excellence for Learning Sciences Research and Inclusive Innovation seek to surface and generate knowledge through equity-centered research and development (R&D) to improve learning opportunities for individuals and their communities.

Our Learning Sciences Research team's core expertise is to investigate learning in authentic settings and at scale, including a focus on students, teachers, resources, systems, and emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI). To conduct investigations, we partner with students, families, teachers, and developers and bring together not only traditional qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method research skills, but also modern data science skills (e.g., learning analytics). The types of investigations we conduct range from design-based research to impact evaluations to research syntheses.

Our Center for Inclusive Innovation (CII) is grounded in an education R&D model that starts with centering the needs of those most impacted by local challenges. Its work is anchored in a set of core tenets that engage leaders, researchers, and entrepreneurs with communities and students in co-leadership, co-research, and co-design.

Inclusive Innovation 2.0 Model

Readiness	Connect & Commit	Inquire & Investigate	Design & Develop	Implement & Iterate	Sustain & Scale
Ensure team readiness for the work, introduce the Inclusive Innovation model and the concepts of co-leadership, co-research and co-design	Build relationships, trust and a shared commitment to tackling a challenge	Deeply investigate the challenge from multiple perspectives and arrived at target outcomes for addressing and measuring progress against the challenge	Create one or more prototype solutions that can be tested for the target outcomes	Implement one or more prototypes, tracking multiple progress indicators and target outcomes to iterate and improve	Implement and codify refined solution(s) in multiple contexts, improving local implementations and gathering knowledge for scaling
Inclusive Innovation Primer	Community Charter	Problem Statement & Progress Indicators	Solution Prototype	Codified Solution	Scale Model Defined

Partnership Opportunity: Research and Development

Learning Sciences Research: We can work with partners to apply and embed a research lens within programs and help build the infrastructure for healthy research-practitioner partnerships to improve learning opportunities.

Inclusive Innovation: We can work with school systems and communities to co-construct inclusive research and development processes that address local challenges, centering the needs and voices of those closest to the challenges.

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2. Facilitating Global Networks and Knowledge-sharing

Digital Promise is facilitating formal and informal knowledge-exchange opportunities for forward-thinking educators and system leaders to create big opportunities and tackle big challenges in education. Through these networks, we surface and spread insights and innovations.

Global Cities Education Network (GCEN)

Our Global Cities Education Network (GCEN) is a unique international learning community of high-performing city school systems from across the world. Working with Digital Promise staff and experts around the world, teams of high-ranking school system and city officials collaborate to identify common, high-priority problems, research best practices, and then develop effective, practical solutions that can be adapted to varying cultural and political contexts.

GCEN brings its members together in an annual symposium, which provides an immersive learning experience that includes site visits, collaborative exchanges, and presentations by experts on the cutting edge of practice and policy. Previous symposia have taken members to Australia, Canada, Estonia, Hong Kong, Singapore, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

In addition, GCEN members can participate in Implementation Cohorts, allowing them to dive deeply into challenges affecting their systems directly. For example, beginning in 2020, Digital Promise led a cohort of GCEN members through a process of systems transformation to address issues of social-emotional learning and wellbeing, applying lessons in international practice from Australia, Canada, and China. Current Implementation Cohort topics include: The Future of Tech-Enabled Learning and Whole-Child Development: Centering Our Most Marginalized Learners.

> **Partnership Opportunity: Global Cities Education Network**
>
> We invite representatives of city education systems to join the Global Cities Education Network. Participation includes an annual symposium focused on system-level best practices in education and access to implementation cohorts that dive deeply into specific challenges.

Student Virtual Exchange

Virtual exchange digitally connects young people from around the world for learning and collaboration, enabling them to gain practical skills and build relationships to prepare them for a globally interconnected world. Digital Promise is leveraging our practitioner networks, including GCEN and our flagship League of Innovative Schools, to facilitate unique virtual exchange programs for students.

> **Partnership Opportunity: Virtual Exchange**
>
> Digital Promise can work with partners to design and lead virtual exchange programs that leverage our networks of education practitioners.

3. Advising on Educational Technology Integration

Digital Promise has deep experience working across research, innovation, and practice to support leaders at all levels of the education system to effectively integrate technology for powerful learning.

Edtech Strategy Advising

We are advising national policymakers on educational technology (edtech) topics ranging from how to close the digital divide to how to use emerging technologies. For example, Digital Promise worked with the Office of Educational Technology in the United States to develop a policy report with insights and recommendations on artificial intelligence and the future of teaching and learning, as well as a set of community-based recommendations for developing effective digital equity plans.

Using our Edtech Pilot Framework, we also work with government and school system partners to discover and select high-quality Edtech solutions using measurable goals and consistent standards. For example, in 2019, Digital Promise advised a group from the Australian Consulate General and Australian Trade and Investment Commission on strategies to evaluate Edtech quality.

Additionally, we leverage our practitioner networks, including Digital Promise's signature League of Innovative Schools—a national network of more than 150 forward-thinking school districts in the United States—as incubation hubs to share, test, and model promising Edtech innovations.

Partnership Opportunity: Edtech Strategy Advising

We can provide a range of services to help countries meet their digital transformation goals:

- **Institutional capacity-building:** We can build the capacity of countries to set up and strengthen national Edtech agencies, networks, and strategies, drawing on our first-hand expertise and unique role within the Edtech ecosystem in the United States.
- **Policy advising:** We can work with partners to build policy agendas and develop policy guidance related to technology priorities.
- **Technology integration:** We can work with government and school system leaders to lead Edtech product pilots and to provide professional learning on technology adoption processes.
- **Technology incubation:** We can build networks and communities of practice globally to share, test, and model emerging technology opportunities.

Localized Blended Learning

We are working with global partners at the school and system level to co-design and implement localized blended learning models that deeply engage students and ensure the purposeful use of technology.

Program Spotlight: Haiti Blended Learning Pilot

Since early 2022, Digital Promise has been working with partners in Haiti to implement a blended learning pilot for primary schools in rural and remote areas. We are introducing digital learning to our pilot schools for the first time through solar power and internet connectivity, professional development for educators, and digital content in Haitian Creole delivered on tablet devices. This work is enabling educators to evolve their instructional practice and classroom culture toward effective blended learning, allowing learners greater self-direction and leading to improved learner outcomes.

"Since we started implementing blended learning in our school, my students easily understand the lessons, are more motivated and engaged, and fully participate in our different learning activities." —Haitian teacher

Partnership Opportunity: Localized Blended Learning

We can work with local governments, school systems, and community-based partners to design and implement blended learning models, bringing together technology, pedagogy, and content to address local curricular standards and context-specific priorities and needs.

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4. Developing and Delivering Customized Professional Development

We are working with global partners—including school networks and local organizations—to develop and deliver customized professional development for educators and leaders across a range of areas of expertise, including blended learning, challenge-based learning, learner variability, global competency, and adult learning.

Blended Learning

Across a range of global settings—including Haiti, Guinea, and the United States—Digital Promise is delivering professional development to educators in order to build their pedagogical competencies, content knowledge, and digital skills to implement powerful blended learning. By understanding these three components and how they interact, educators can combine digital and face-to-face instruction in a way that enhances student learning experiences.

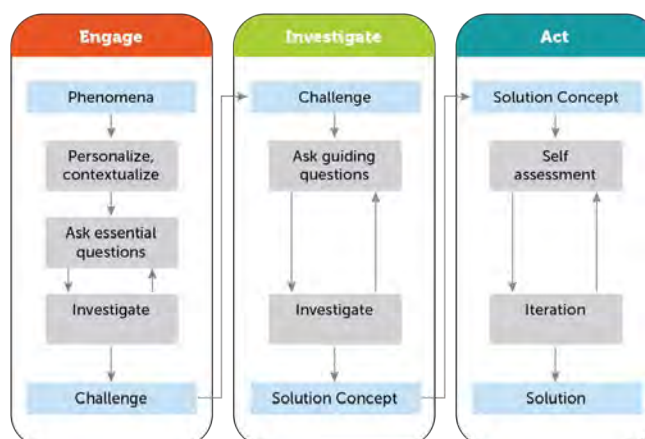Program Spotlight: Verizon Innovative Learning Schools (VILS)

Through our Verizon Innovative Learning Schools (VILS) program, Digital Promise is supporting over 30,000 teachers in the United States to build their professional capacity to deliver powerful blended learning. We provide school-based coaching and virtual professional development workshops to ensure all teachers are supported and successful in facilitating student learning with technology, regardless of existing levels of mastery. To support individual school goals, we have also developed on-demand Teacher Training Pathways with the opportunity to earn Digital Promise micro-credentials upon successful completion of each course.

Partnership Opportunity: Blended Learning Professional Development

We offer consultation on the best ways to integrate blended learning into your existing professional development activities and customized workshops for educators or trainers on specific blended learning topics aligned to your needs.

Challenge-Based Learning

Challenge-Based Learning (CBL) provides an efficient and effective framework for learning while solving real-world challenges. The Challenge-Based Learning framework is divided into three interconnected phases: Engage, Investigate, and Act. Each phase includes exploratory cycles and activities that prepare learners to move to the next phase. Supporting the entire framework is an ongoing process of documentation, reflection, and sharing.

Program Spotlight: Ciena Solutions Challenge

The Ciena Solutions Challenge is a global design challenge launched by Digital Promise and Ciena, a global leader in optical and routing systems, services, and automation software, that invites students around the world to use Challenge-Based Learning to design solutions that address the Sustainable Development Goals. Throughout the Challenge, Digital Promise and Ciena offer free professional learning and mentoring opportunities to support participants to explore big ideas, ask thoughtful questions, investigate challenges, and act to create solutions. Challenge winners each receive a $2,500 sustainability award.

"The journey has changed my perspective of life from being money-oriented to being problem-solving and to realize my responsibility and duty [to] help save the planet and people." —Zimbabwean student and Challenge winner

Partnership Opportunity: Challenge-Based Learning Professional Development

We can provide customized training for educators or instructional leaders in challenge-based learning approaches and tools. We can also provide professional development sessions and resources to support schools and to participate in the Ciena Solutions Challenge. As part of the Ciena Solutions Challenge Awards program, eligible educators globally may apply for a $2,500 USD sustainability award to sustain or scale their Challenge activities.

Learner Variability and Learning Disabilities

Today's schools include a diverse learner population who bring varied experiences, different cultures, and unique abilities to the classroom. The concept of "learner variability" is a recognition that all learners differ, and learning sciences research shows that these differences matter for learning. It embraces both learners who struggle and learners who thrive. At Digital Promise, the Learner Variability Navigator (LVN) makes the science of learning accessible to educators so they can see whole-child connections and meet learners where they are across varied contexts and needs. Our IEP Project, focused on Individual Education Programs (IEPs), supports educators to use a whole-child and strength-based approach when writing reports about learners with disabilities.

> **Partnership Opportunity: Learner Variability Professional Development**
>
> We provide a range of professional development offerings to empower users with an understanding of what learner variability is and how to design for it, as well as how to use a whole-child and strength-based approach to support students with disabilities:
> - **Services for schools and systems:** customized professional learning opportunities, including self-guided modules, workshops, professional learning community guides, and micro-credentials.
> - **Services for Edtech developers:** a variety of tools—including an Application Programming Interface (API), accelerators, workshops, and product certifications—to help Edtech providers understand what makes learners unique and how to leverage the science of learning to support their needs.

Global Competence

Rapid economic, technological, and social changes are creating a world that is ever more interconnected. Digital Promise recognizes the need to prepare all learners for work and civic roles in a world where success increasingly requires the ability to compete, connect, and cooperate on an international scale. To meet that need, we have partnered with organizations and educators to develop professional development courses and resources that can help Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) teachers and vocational educators to incorporate global competence education into their work.

> **Partnership Opportunity: Global Competence Professional Development**
>
> We offer customized workshops for educators or trainers focused on a variety of global competence topics, such as: (1) Workforce Readiness Skills for a Global Economy; (2) Getting to Know Your Students Through Global Competence: A Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workshop; (3) Internationalizing Work-Based Learning Connections; and (4) Do-It-Yourself Global Collaboration.

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Leadership Capacity

Digital Promise has built the capacity of educational leaders in a variety of contexts to facilitate educators' professional growth. For example, we have led "training-of-trainers" workshops for education leaders to build their capacity to use research-backed principles for supporting adult learners and supporting the development of school-based instructional technology coaches.

Program Spotlight: Guinea Training-of-Trainers

Digital Promise worked with Jeune Espoir, a local education organization in Dalaba, Guinea, to enable Guinean educators to leverage digital tools to deepen student learning and engagement. We conducted a training-of-trainers for the Jeune Espoir staff members to build their capacity to lead high-quality professional development workshops for educators by applying best practices for adult learning. The Jeune Espoir staff, with support from Digital Promise, then applied these concepts to lead a multi-day training workshop for local teachers on powerful blended learning strategies.

"I really appreciated the communication from the facilitators, the continuous evaluation during the training, and the receptiveness of the trainers." —Guinean high school teacher

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Partnership Opportunity: Leadership Capacity-Building

Customized Workshops: We offer training for educational leaders and coaches focused on best practices for facilitating educators' professional growth. These workshops apply research-backed principles for adult learners and can be adapted to a variety of professional development needs.

5. Developing and Issuing Evidence-based Credentials and Certifications

Digital Promise works with partners to develop and issue evidence-based certifications and credentials for a range of users, including educators, instructional leaders, and Edtech developers.

Micro-credentials

Micro-credentials provide learners with recognition for the skills they develop throughout their life, regardless of where or how they learned them. They are a natural extension of the formal and informal learning activities individuals engage in every day. Digital Promise has built an ecosystem of micro-credentials in partnership with issuers and earners to personalize and recognize professional learning. Micro-credentials can support schools and networks to address access to professional learning opportunities, promote teacher retention, ensure use of research-based instructional practices, balance priorities with educators' needs and interests, and increase satisfaction with professional learning.

"The power of micro-credentials, for me, is the ability to be reflective on my teaching, to really look at what I have done in the past, what I want to do in the future, identify my areas of weakness, and see still, how can I improve as an educator." —Karen Grimm, Teacher, USA

Program Spotlight: Micro-credentials in Puerto Rico and Thailand

Digital Promise and Global Education Exchange Opportunities (GEEO), a Puerto Rico-based education nonprofit, established a partnership to support and expand educator professional learning and use of technology in Puerto Rico through coaching and micro-credentials. As part of the pilot, school leaders, coaches, and teachers selected from a range of Spanish-language micro-credentials centered around systems change, coaching, and technology to support their professional learning journey.

Digital Promise has also worked with King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) in Bangkok, Thailand to launch a portfolio of micro-credentials centered on career-specific and academic-focused skills, which are publicly available for university credit.

> **Partnership Opportunity: Micro-credentials**
>
> Currently, our micro-credential platform, which contains more than 600 free or low-cost micro-credentials, has reached more than 40,000 registered users, and has awarded more than 25,000 competency-based micro-credentials in partnership with more than 100 issuing organizations and institutions. All micro-credentials earned on Digital Promise's platform are Open Badges, which are verifiable, portable, and shareable digital credentials. We can enable partners to meet their professional learning and certification needs through a range of related services:
> - **Small-Scale Engagement:** These services make use of our existing catalog of micro-credentials and provide a faster and more economical implementation.
> - **Mid-Scale Engagement:** These services engage our partners in a collaborative design process to produce micro-credentials specific to their needs.
> - **Large-Scale Engagement:** In addition to engaging partners in a collaborative design process to produce micro-credentials specific to their needs, we engage in piloting, researching, and evaluating the micro-credential implementation to support long-term sustainability and scalability.
> - **Ad Hoc Services:** These include options that can be added on to enhance our standard types of engagements, including consultations, advising, professional learning, translation, and adaptation to the local context.

Edtech Product Certifications

Digital Promise works with issuing partners to develop evidence-based Edtech Product Certifications in order to build a uniform, consistent, and transparent system to ensure that educators and learners can access high-quality technology products. Through a collaborative, research-based R&D process, we define, iterate, and pilot quality criteria and an application before launching the final certification. Through Digital Promise's platform, edtech teams can apply for product certifications issued by partner organizations, such as Prioritizing Racial Equity in AI Design and Universal Design for Learning.

"A research-based certification is not something that is awarded easily from Digital Promise. However, going through the rigorous assessment process needed to earn the title of Certified Product means that educators can feel confident they are using the best in class at their schools." —Yovhane Metcalfe, Ph.D. (she/her), Chief Academic Officer, StrongMind

> **Partnership Opportunity: Edtech Product Certifications**
>
> We can support partner organizations through the certification development process to become Product Certification issuers and host Product Certifications on our platform.

Appendix: Free Tools, Resources, and Opportunities

Challenge-Based Learning

1. **Challenge-Based Learning Guide:** The CBL guide is for everyone—students, teachers, parents, administrators, and community members—interested in building learning communities focused on identifying challenges and implementing thoughtful and sustainable solutions.
2. **Ciena Solutions Challenge:** The Challenge's resource library includes a range of resources for educators and learners in English, Spanish, and French to support them to design and implement CBL projects in their own communities.
3. **Challenge-Based Science Learning Toolkit:** The toolkit supports science educators with designing powerful learning experiences to engage all learners. These resources will help educators create their own units or modify example units for use with their students.
4. **360° Story Lab:** The 360° Story Lab supports young people to use emerging and interactive technologies to create media, using experiential storytelling and immersive design to share their perspectives and communities and inspire positive action on issues they care about. The 360 production guide includes activities and resources for creating original immersive media products, including 360° video and photography.

Learner Variability

1. **Learner Variability Navigator (LVN):** a free, open-source web application that helps educators around the world find research-based strategies that support the whole learner so they can create better learning experiences.
2. **Step-by-Step Guided Tools**:
   - Learner-centered design
   - Instructional design
   - Product assessments
3. **Professional Learning Resources:**
   - Learning modules on learner variability, with associated micro-credential offerings
   - EdWeb webinars offering continuing education credits for teachers
   - Guides to teach students about learner variability, strength-based Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities, culturally-responsive practices, and digital literacy for adults
   - Examples and templates for teachers, instructional coaches, and academic and behavioral support leaders

Global Competence

1. **Global Competence Resources**: This free toolkit for vocational education providers equips learners with 21st-century skills. This toolkit includes facilitation resources, sample projects and assignments, and technology tools.
2. **Global Competence Courses**: Visit CTELearn.org to enroll in the free professional development courses.

Computational Thinking

1. **Reports and Resources:** Digital Promise has published a number of [tools](#) for educators who are interested in integrating computational thinking—an interrelated set of skills and practices for solving complex problems—into their work.

Instructional Coaching

1. **Instructional Coaching Playbook:** The [playbook](#), based on our research on the [Dynamic Learning Project](#) (DLP), is a resource to help schools and systems build sustainable and scalable coaching programs.
2. **Google for Education Certified Coach Program:** This [certification program](#) is based on Digital Promise's work with Google and EdTech Team on the DLP pilot.
3. **Coaching Community**: The Digital Promise [Powerful Learning Community (PLC) for Coaches](#) is open to those who guide teachers in delivering academic instruction and meeting students' needs. Coaches participating in the PLC collaborate to share expertise, remove barriers to success, and implement strategies to support educators' use of technology for student learning.

YouthMADE Festival

The annual [YouthMADE Festival](#) (Youth Making, Activism, Art, and Design in Education) celebrates youth creativity and innovation by inviting students, educators, advocates, and organizations around the globe to host and join events showcasing youth-led work. Festival events include synchronous virtual sessions and asynchronous in-person sessions. There are multiple options to get involved in YouthMADE:

1. **Participate**: [Host an event](#) or present your work at the next YouthMADE festival. Digital Promise will support participants to host in-person, virtual, or hybrid events, as well as live and asynchronous events.
2. **Share your story**: Share your work facilitating youth innovation and creativity for Digital Promise to promote through its year-round YouthMADE story series.