



Social justice initiative at PDK

PDK is launching a two-year Community of Learning and Practice initiative to bring together a diverse group of system leaders committed to promoting social justice and equity in public education. The work will begin in November.

This work is made possible through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich.

The Community of Learning and Practice will enable participating system leaders to build a strong network with other system leaders who are committed to changing the narrative about public education in ways that bring sustainable and equity-minded solutions that allow students, schools, and communities to flourish.



The community will include about 30 leaders from eight to 10 districts across the U.S. Each district team will include the superintendent and two other cabinet members. The initial group of participants will be invited because of leadership they have already demonstrated in this area, but the intention is to open the group to self-nominations in future years.

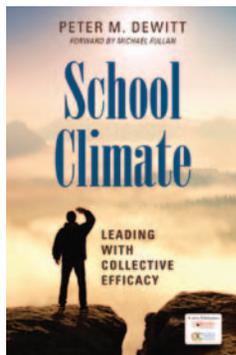
“We want to bring together system leaders who share a common goal of promoting social justice and equity in public education. In this community, they will explore the challenges they confront and learn with and from one another as they work together to design some responses,” said Joshua P. Starr, CEO of PDK International.

“At PDK, we believe that system leaders must engage those most affected in defining the problems and designing solutions. Moreover, we believe that system leaders must implement solutions through adaptive approaches and a social justice and equity lens,” said Gislaine Ngounou, PDK’s chief program officer.

Throughout its two years, the Community of Learning and Practice will meet in person as well as through virtual cohort sessions for learning, application, and peer collaboration. Coaches/facilitators will make occasional field visits for on-the-ground support.

School climate focus of book club selection

The November selection for the PDK Book Club is *School Climate: Leading with Collective Efficacy* by Peter DeWitt (Corwin, 2017).



DeWitt’s book offers leaders practical high-impact strategies to improve school climate, deepen involvement in student learning, and engage a broader family network. In addition to international vignettes focused on community stakeholders and research-based practices, this book features tools such as:

- A leadership growth cycle to help leaders build their self-efficacy;
- A teacher observation cycle centered on building collective efficacy;
- An early warning system to identify potential at-risk students;
- Action steps following each chapter to apply to your own setting; and
- Discussion questions for use in team environments.

For an annual fee of \$39, PDK Book Club members receive three specially selected books published by Corwin Press. Books are mailed in November, March, and July.

To receive the November selection, you must join the book club by the end of October.

Join at <http://pdkintl.org/programs-resources/book-club/>

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