Beyond High School
Project-Based Learning Module

Beyond High School partners with district and school leaders to transform high school learning environments with the goal of ensuring all students are prepared for success in college, careers, and life. Through multi-year collaboration, Pivot Learning provides support, job-embedded coaching, professional development, and tools to:

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Redesign learning environments for equity	Enable change and transformative adult learning	Develop competency-based learning and assessment systems	Integrate a continuum of work-based learning	Design college and career pathways

Explore the Beyond High School Project-Based Learning Module

The project-based learning (PBL) component of Beyond High School includes a series of workshops and professional learning opportunities to develop your team's understanding of PBL and begin to integrate this method of teaching into the curriculum.

PBL engages students in solving a real-world problem or answering a complex question that results in their demonstrating their knowledge and skills by developing a product or presentation that is shared with an audience. Projects typically last from a few weeks to a full semester and provide students with opportunities to develop deep content knowledge as well as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication skills.

The Project-Based Learning Module (PBL) includes 10 workshops.

GETTING STARTED WORKSHOPS:

Introduction to Project-Based Learning

This module introduces Project-Based Learning (PBL). Covered topics include the why and what of PBL, high-quality PBL, and the difference between PBL and doing projects. By the end of this module, participants will have developed a shared understanding of PBL and some basics about the style of teaching and learning in a PBL environment.

Leaning Outcomes & Key Products

Participants will:
- Understand why all students deserve access to high-quality PBL
- Understand the difference between doing a project and PBL
- Identify basic skills and project-based teaching practices for successful implementation
- Complete the PBL Teaching Practices document
- Complete the Going PBL Planning Tool

Ins and Outs of PBL

This module breaks PBL down into its different parts and helps participants to think of PBL as a different variation on what they already might be doing in their classrooms. Participants will engage in activities to help breakdown the abstract idea of PBL into smaller, tangible pieces. They will also be exposed to example projects and will see how the projects unfold from beginning to end.

Leaning Outcomes & Key Products

Participants will:
- Understand key practices in PBL
- Recognize different pieces of PBL and how they fit together (structure of PBL) to create high-quality learning experiences
- Complete a project plan "puzzle" filling in missing pieces to lead to significant learning
- Deconstruct a project to gain a deeper understanding of the different elements of the High-Quality PBL framework and how they might be met in a project

Project Design

This module will take participants through a design thinking process for PBL ideation, planning, and simple calendaring. Participants will consider project exhibitions and hierarchy of audience. They will also practice using planning documents and leave with an idea for how to get started.

Leaning Outcomes & Key Products

Participants will:
- Brainstorm project ideas
- Understand project exhibitions and hierarchy of audience
- Build ideas using a designer mindset of "Yes, and…"
- Use High Tech High's PBL Design Kit, identify areas of project that are strong, OK, and areas of growth
- Transform an abstract concept of a project into a simple linear calendar
- Start PBL Works Project Planner
- Develop a plan for getting started

Jump In!
A module for after completing a project or mini-project

This module is intended to be completed after a project or mini-project has been implemented. Participants will be guided through reflecting on the experience, looking at student work with a deeper learning lens, and revising project plans. Note: participants will need to bring examples of student work from the project.

Leaning Outcomes & Key Products

Participants will:

- Evaluate student work through Looking at Student Work protocol
- Revise or create a new Project Planner for future implementation
- Create a Project Card to capture the project and share with others

DIVING DEEPER WORKSHOPS:

Project Tuning

Participant collaboration is key for this module. Participants will each have an opportunity to present and "tune" their project, getting and receiving feedback from each other. Note: participants will need to bring notes, plans, or sketches of their project and documentation plans—as it exists in draft form; partially done or incomplete work samples are perfect!

Leaning Outcomes & Key Products

Participants will:
- Participate in Project Tuning Protocol
- Give feedback to other participants' project ideas
- Revise their project based on feedback

PBL, CTE, & WBL

This module helps participants see the connections between Project-Based Learning (PBL), Career Technical Education (CTE), and Work-Based Learning (WBL). Authentic audiences and industry engagement are integral pieces of all three. Participants will learn how to connect with authentic audiences for PBL exhibitions and will gain tips for industry engagement and seeking authentic feedback from audiences.

Leaning Outcomes & Key Products

Participants will:

- Understand how PBL connects to the 11 elements of high-quality CTE (and Linked Learning standards, if applicable)
- Identify areas of connection between PBL and WBL
- Create an Industry Contacts spreadsheet

Project Calendaring & Benchmarking

One key to successful project design is establishing a clear project calendar and benchmarks to support students in progressing towards their final products and presentations. This module will explore appropriate benchmarks for rigorous and authentic projects. Models of benchmarks from exemplary projects will be shared along with resources for how to benchmark. Example project calendars will also be shared and participants will practice calendaring out a project.

Leaning Outcomes & Key Products

Participants will:
- Discern the characteristics of meaningful, rigorous benchmarks
- Practice benchmarking a project
- Create a Project Calendar

Managing Projects

Project management techniques, including SCRUMS, are critical for successful projects. This module explores how participants can manage PBL in the classroom, from a daily classroom management perspective, balancing teaching concepts and skills, and also avoiding things like off task time and project deadline pushout.

Leaning Outcomes & Key Products

Participants will:

- Understand how to balance teaching concepts and skills within the scope of a project
- Learn different techniques and methods for managing projects
- Create a personalized Project Management Plan

Assessments & Rubrics

In this module participants will dive deep into PBL assessment. Topics include: what to assess and how to assess it, student self-assessments, individual vs. group assessment, benchmark assessments, final project assessments, rubrics, single-point rubric, assessing different learning outcomes, and more.

Leaning Outcomes & Key Products

Participants will:

- Learn best practices for assessment in PBL
- Evaluate different forms of PBL assessment
- Practice creating different types of rubrics
- Create a Project Assessment Map

Leadership: Fostering a PBL Culture

This module is intended for those in leadership roles. In order for teachers to serve as facilitators of learning and create high quality PBL experiences, a different type of learning environment and culture are needed. Participants will look at how to create and cultivate a PBL learning environment and culture for their school site(s).

Leaning Outcomes & Key Products

Participants will:

- Identify key strategies that have helped PBL to take hold in classrooms
- Understand the power of school-wide exhibitions of learning
- Create a personal PBL Growth Plan for school site(s) and/or their district