

Innovation Circle grants are designed to support teachers to refine and reimagine teaching and learning in their schools. Through the process of self-designed learning and Fellow collaboration, teachers will be better able to innovate, partnering with students to solve large and small problems in their communities. Funds to support implementation will also be included.

Self-designed Professional Learning + Circle Experience = Innovation

In 2022, Fund for Teachers is looking to fund problems of practice in the following categories:

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
<p>BUILDING STUDENT SELF- AWARENESS</p>	<p>CASEL defines self-awareness as, “the abilities to understand one’s own emotions, thoughts and values and how they influence behaviors.” Self-awareness impacts how teachers teach as well as how students learn. Educators in this circle are interested in exploring the idea of self-awareness personally and with their students. Topics may include (but are not limited to) social or cultural identities, emotional intelligence, bias, and growth mindset.</p>
<p>LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS</p>	<p>Parents and community organizations have proven to be invaluable partners throughout the pandemic. Educators in this circle are interested in learning about and re-imagining how to collaborate more deeply with partners to promote student success. Topics may include (but are not limited to) developing stronger family or community partnerships.</p>
<p>STUDENT AGENCY</p>	<p>Shifting the teachers’ role in the classroom to that of a facilitator of learning is hard work. Educators in this Circle are interested in finding ways to structure learning spaces that invite students to own their learning more deeply. Topics may include (but are not limited to) use of choice, self-guided or flipped classrooms, grading practices, project- or problem-based learning or student engaged assessment.</p>
<p>STUDENT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT</p>	<p>The past several years has underscored how important it is for students to deeply understand our democratic systems. Teachers in this Circle are interested in “helping young people develop and practice the knowledge, beliefs and behaviors needed to participate in civic life” (Winthrop, 2020). Topics may include (but are not limited to) curriculum development, student governance, project- or problem-based learning, inquiry, or social action projects.</p>