



## The Bridges Collaborative

Six decades after *Brown v. Board of Education*, the promise of equal education for all remains elusive. The Bridges Collaborative—a new, first-of-its-kind school integration initiative powered by The Century Foundation—**aims to change that.**

Despite overwhelming evidence that integrated schools are better for all students, far too many American children still attend schools apart from their peers of different social, economic, and racial backgrounds. More than one-third of students attend schools with student bodies that are almost entirely white or nonwhite, and the federal government has failed to take an active role in promoting integration. Since the 1950s, progress has stalled and, in some cases, reversed.

The Bridges Collaborative seeks to overcome these barriers by reigniting a nationwide movement for integrated schools and diverse neighborhoods. The Collaborative will serve as a hub for practitioners from across the country. It will bring together leaders of school systems, charter schools, and fair housing advocates, and provide them the space and opportunity to learn from one another, build grassroots political support, and develop successful strategies for integration. In doing so, the Bridges Collaborative will bring us one step closer to realizing the promise of *Brown*.

### During the national COVID-19 crisis, the Bridges Collaborative will:

- + Host virtual conversations and programming with practitioners, advocates, and researchers on topics of interest related to integration and relevant to our present circumstances:
  - + How should integration advocates be strategizing during COVID-19?
  - + What opportunities are there for students from different types of schools to get to know each other digitally during COVID-19 and share more about how their school experiences differ?
  - + What opportunities does the COVID-19 crisis present for reforming our educational system for the better and ensuring all students have the opportunity to attend high-quality, integrated schools?

## As the national COVID-19 crisis abates and children return to physical school buildings, the Bridges Collaborative will:

- + Launch a cohort of 50 school districts, charter schools, and fair housing advocates who are involved in integration in their local contexts.
- + Feature exciting events, activities, and opportunities, such as:
  - + The opportunity to collaborate with districts, charter schools, and fair housing advocates who are committed to school integration from across the country through national and regional convenings.
  - + Access to workshops, modules, presentations, and resources from school integration experts.
  - + Financial support for travel and accommodations to national and regional convenings.
  - + Access to high-quality poll-tested messaging and communications resources for advancing school integration.
  - + High quality consultancies with other districts, schools, and organizations on problems of practice related to diverse, rigorous, integrated, and inclusive schools and neighborhoods.
  - + Access to tools from the field, such as survey instruments and curriculum, to help further the goals of increasing access to diverse, rigorous, integrated, and inclusive schools and neighborhoods.
- + Host public forums that feature integration-related issues and national leaders
- + Release relevant research on racial and socio-economic integration
- + Make policy recommendations at the federal and state levels

The Collaborative is led by Stefan Lallinger, formerly a Special Assistant to Chancellor Richard Carranza at the New York City Department of Education and a long-time teacher and principal in New Orleans, LA.

### Contact

For inquiries about the Collaborative, prospective membership in the collaborative or simply to connect with the director, email Stefan Lallinger at [lallinger@tcf.org](mailto:lallinger@tcf.org).