



FAQs About the Bridges Collaborative

What is the Bridges Collaborative?

The Bridges Collaborative is an initiative launched by The Century Foundation to push the national conversation on school integration by serving as a hub for practitioners from across the country who are engaged in the work of integrating schools and school systems. The Bridges Collaborative uniquely focuses on bringing practitioners from school systems, charter schools, and fair housing advocates together to advance integration and increase access to diverse, rigorous, integrated, and inclusive schools for students across the country.

What does the name “Bridges Collaborative” mean?

One of the great promises of integrated schools is building bridges between students, families, and educators of different racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The Bridges Collaborative also builds bridges across the district, charter, and housing sectors for the purpose of furthering the cause of school integration.

Why is there an explicit focus on including organizations from the housing community?

A great deal of school segregation stems from residential segregation, so housing policy is school policy. School integration advocates in the fields of housing and education often have conversations in isolation from one another, when in fact, there is great potential for partnership and learning across sectors. We are excited to welcome our housing partners to the Collaborative.

Why is there an explicit focus on including charter schools?

In many parts of the country, charter schools and school districts operate separately from one another and do not collaborate as much as they could, particularly on issues of school integration. We're excited to foster collaboration across charters, districts, and housing partners. Also, there is a common misconception that charters are a primary driver of segregation. While charter schools can and should do more to integrate, a small but growing number of diverse-by-design charter schools are showing an innovative path forward on integration.

What types of events will the Bridges Collaborative host?

The Bridges Collaborative is committed to making research and policy relevant to practitioners. For members of the Bridges Collaborative cohort, there will be three national convenings over the next two years. For members of the general public, there will be virtual events, policy forums, online workshops, and opportunities to connect with experts from the Century Foundation.

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.