

New Pedagogies for Deep Learning: A Global Partnership

# Defy Pandemic Gravity: How to Jumpstart Deep Learning in your School



New Pedagogies for  
**Deep Learning™**  
A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

<https://deep-learning.global>

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# Defy Pandemic Gravity:

## How to Jumpstart Deep Learning in your School

*It's been a long haul.* Your school staff is exhausted and demoralized. The Pandemic has been a whopping distraction from the focus on student learning. As restrictions ease, school teams want to return to its focus on Deep Learning. For many teams, the question is: how best to begin again? This short paper provides seven considerations for reviving Deep Learning in schools.

**Dignify:** Let's pay homage to our teachers. If you want to jumpstart Deep Learning in your school, begin by recognizing their resilience and resourcefulness during this constrained time. Deep Learning implementation is about relentlessly seeking out the assets and presuming positive intentions; it is not about exposing our deficits. Keep this in mind as you invite staff to focus on renewal. Respect their need for individualized pace and well-being.

**Gratify:** Call attention to current and past Deep Learning accomplishments. Recall the joy, the energy, the way students responded enthusiastically, the way it made teachers feel rewarded for creativity and collaboration. Deep Learning is deeply gratifying and reminds us all why we chose this vocation in the first place. As you reintroduce Deep Learning, bring back the joy.

**Simplify:** Deep Learning offers many tools and resources—it can be hard to know which resources to use when. Keep it simple: Think 6 and 4. Get reacquainted with the [six global competencies](#) and the [4 Elements of Learning Design](#). As a team, read them over again and ask yourselves questions like: What excites me here? What's important to us? What does this look like in action? What am I wondering about?

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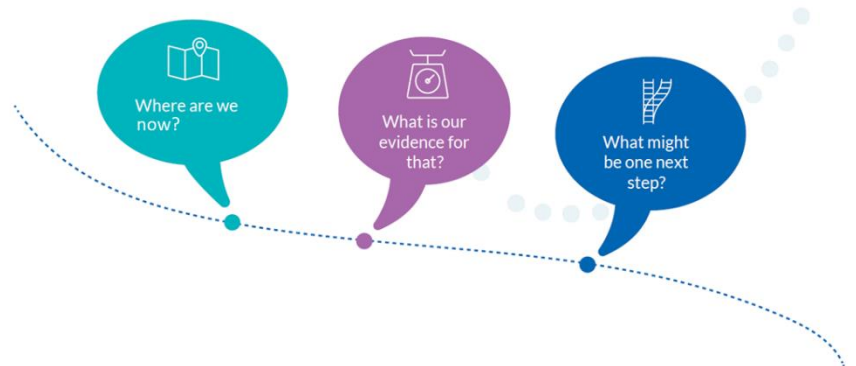


**Clarify:** After you have reviewed the 6 and the 4, ask where are we at? Engage in a guilt-free, candid conversation about where we are at in our school. Use the Learning Design Rubric as a common reference point. This isn't about feeling shame or being apologetic. It's about sharing authentic and varied perspectives about where you are so you can move forward.

**Identify:** One small strategy within the Teacher Self-Assessment Tool that can deepen your Deep Learning practice and commit to trying it for 1-2 weeks. If you can partner up with a colleague for shared reflection, even better. Remember

**collaborative Inquiry** does not have to always be formalized. We know

release time for substitute teachers remains tight. Gather with a colleague for an informal short, reflective conversation. Ask yourself: how did it go? How do you know? What might be your next step?



“When teachers have choice and agency, they invest with enthusiasm. Encourage teachers to be creative again.”

**Diversify:** Invite a range of teachers who are excited to dive in again. The school does not need to follow a lock-step, all-or-nothing approach. When teachers have choice and agency, they invest with enthusiasm. Encourage teachers to be creative again. Who are some of the new staff members who have come into the school since the pandemic began and how can veteran Deep Learning teachers support them? How might student voice shape your next steps? Is there a school down the street that wants to connect?

**Amplify** the small wins. Share examples. Tell stories. Capture digital images. Tweet the moments

@Newpedagogies #NPDL. Don't dismiss the small-scale examples, they build momentum, curiosity, and energy. Deep Learning does not need to be an elaborate project, it can live in our schools every day.

Remember, there is a vast global community of educators reviving deep learning. Connect with the NPDL knowledge building community <https://deep-learning.global> to share your experiences and generate more ideas about how we can all move forward and defy gravity together.

