What is active learning, and how can we organize for it in our schools and communities?

William R. Penuel

University of Colorado Boulder

@bpenuel, @learnDBIR, @NCRPP
Learning Trajectories and Progressions

Focus on a few core ideas
Support learning over years, not days
Build on what students bring

A learning trajectory for ratio
Interest Catalyzes Learning
Learning, Identity, and Emotion Are Intertwined.
Accountable Talk
MATHEMATICS

SCIENCE
Talk Moves
What ideas do we have?

In an active learning classroom....

• What are students doing?
• What is the teacher doing?
• What is the nature of the task?
Discussion: Your Ideas

What are some ideas we can work with that will be productive as we move through the day?
Some More Food for Thought

Promoting Equitable Participation
Some More Food for Thought

Promoting Equitable Participation

Expand smartness: Name students’ accomplishments and competencies. Ask students to assist teaching the class and helping one another.
Connecting to Students’ Interests and Experiences through “Citizen Engineering”
Connect learning to student interests, experiences, and the community.

Connecting to Students’ Interests and Experiences through “Citizen Engineering”
Taking an Ecosystem View of Equity: *Chicago City of Learning*
Taking an Ecosystem View of Equity: *Chicago City of Learning*

Expand number of accessible and visible pathways into STEM at the level of the community.
A Few Big Ideas

• Your ideas here
• Your ideas here
• Your ideas here
• Anchor learning in meaningful problems to solve and phenomena to explain.
• Connect learning to student interests, experiences, and the community.
• Support students in making sense of and building on others’ ideas.
• Expand smartness: Name emerging capabilities of students.
• Ask students to assist teaching the class and helping one another.
• Expand number of accessible and visible pathways into STEM at the level of the community.
Our Call To Action