PLACE NETWORK
REIMAGINE RURAL EDUCATION
Teton Science Schools’ Place Network partners with rural schools to implement a model for education that supports increased engagement, character building, community impact and improved learning outcomes for K-12 students, while celebrating the unique differences of every community.

We exist to provide an equal opportunity for all learners to make a difference in the world.

THE CASE

**Local and global challenges need innovative solutions.**
The challenges and opportunities faced by the world are immense. Professionals in the future will need both the skills and dispositions to create innovative solutions to local challenges. To do this, students need to complete real projects that address real challenges to be prepared for the modern world. We believe that this must happen on a local level, everywhere.

**Learners need a different model.**
Students need to move from a standardized, inflexible, compliant and disconnected curriculum to an adaptive, innovative, personalized, learner-centered model.

**Communities need involvement and engagement.**
Local engagement, entrepreneurship and participation is critical for community vitality and sustainability.

**Students are not connecting with local places.**
While technology use has rapidly increased there is a corresponding decrease in students engaging in the world outside of their homes and schools - both natural and human built.

**Learning needs to expand opportunity from school to entire communities.**
The entire community around a school can be engaged as a learning opportunity to increase personalization, relevance and engagement.

**We define “place” as the cultural, ecological and economic aspects that make up a community.**
THE PRINCIPLES OF PLACE-BASED EDUCATION GUIDE OUR SCHOOL MODEL IMPLEMENTATION.

LOCAL TO GLOBAL CONTEXT
Local learning serves as a model for understanding the world around us.

DESIGN THINKING
Creative problem solving is approached systematically.

INQUIRY-BASED
Learning is grounded in observing, asking relevant questions, making predictions and collecting data.

LEARNER-CENTERED
Learning is personally relevant to each student.

COMMUNITY AS CLASSROOM
Community experts, experiences and places are part of the expanded definition of a classroom.

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH
The curriculum matches the real world where traditional subject areas are taught through integrated, and frequently, project-based approaches.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE LEARNER IS AT THE CENTER, ENGAGEMENT MATTERS, & RELEVANCE IS CRUCIAL.

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING
provides opportunities for students to collaborate around relevant, impactful and complex learning experiences.

COMPETENCY-BASED ASSESSMENT links learning goals with learning experiences in meaningful ways.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING
allow students to progress at a pace and in a way that maximizes learning.

CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP
foster the human potential to personally and professionally thrive in the future.
As Place Network partners, schools and districts have the opportunity to immerse into a multi-year place-based professional development experience. This includes:

- On-site school visits
- Virtual workshops
- Shared online learning communities
- Model curriculum
- Leadership engagement

**Our Commitment**

1. Guidance and support to launch or transform your school to the Place Network learning model
2. Implementation guide and resources to support implementation
3. Frequently updated research and tools to enhance and improve the model
4. Network evaluation summaries to support ongoing improvement
5. Access to on-site and virtual professional development and consulting
6. Annual meetings
7. Virtual consulting and guidance during implementation

**Your Commitment**

1. Commit to using the place-based education principles in your school
2. Commit to implementing the elements of the Place Network learning model
3. Use a common set of competencies (which can be linked to state standards/outcomes where needed)
4. Use a common technology platform to share projects
5. Support the Place Network mission and values
6. Support annual network fee and ongoing professional development costs