

The Outward Bound Professional Learning Lab

Launched in July 2017 with the generous support of The S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation, the Outward Bound Professional Learning Lab ('The Lab') was formed to continuously improve the student experience by evaluating program delivery and student outcomes and enhancing professional learning opportunities for staff.



The Lab is not a physical location but rather a community of intellect, research and practice made up of Practice Leaders from each of the 11 Outward Bound regional Schools, five core OBUSA staff, and visiting scholars and experts including the Noam Institute (research partner), the Lawrence Hall of Science/BEETLES (curriculum design partner), The PEAR Institute: Partnerships in Education and Resilience, and Youth Outside (Equity, Inclusion and Diversity partner).



What is the Output of The Lab?

Professional Learning Sessions

Delivered at scale across the system, these sessions are grounded in research and support the development of the instructional skills that result in positive student outcomes.

Domains of Thriving

This research-based observation tool combines 50+ years of Outward Bound experience with current research on youth development. The tool codifies, promotes and measures the staff practices that support student growth. It is used to drive program quality improvement at the local, school and national levels and to support the ongoing development of Outward Bound instructional staff.

Outward Bound Outcomes Survey

This tool provides statistically valid data to measure the socio-emotional growth of students, impact of our programs, demonstrate our effectiveness and help us to continually refine what works across course types, lengths and populations.

Learning Tours

Educators from across the system develop a collective understanding of best practices through observing, debating and refining the relationship between staff practice and student outcomes.



ABOVE: Developed in partnership with The NOAM Institute.



DOMAINS OF THRIVING

