



The Importance of Regional Networks

As regional networks convene, they perform key activities such as mobilizing community leaders, advancing policy, making a case for funding, ensuring access to STEM learning, and strengthening educator capacity. Below are some important successes of CSLNet regional networks:

- Engage the interest of community leaders
- Share practices worthy of attention and outcomes to educate policymakers and leaders
- Utilize data and monitor progress to influence thinking of leaders and stakeholders
- Define the elements of the system
- Identify the gaps in the system
- Make a case for funding

Critical Infrastructure	
1) Strong Leadership & Commitment 2) A Critical Mass of Stakeholders 3) Backbone Support 4) Community Vision	5) Shared Measurement 6) Resources 7) Continuous Communication 8) Mutually Reinforcing Activities

Levels of Network Behavior	
Behavior	Definition
Collaboration	Working together to achieve a shared goal; a collective, determination to reach the same goal by sharing knowledge, learning, results; communication; and build consensus. There is an understanding that the work of the entities together is greater than the total of their separate contributions.
Cooperation	The process of working together to reach the same end; parts of coordination and sharing of resources are used in cooperation.
Coordination	Bringing together different elements of a complex system or activity to reach a specified objective or common goal. The sharing of information through open communication is required.
Resource Sharing	The sharing of knowledge and information with another party or parties. Resource sharing is an important part of collaboration.
Networking	A like-minded group or people recognizing, creating, sharing information, opportunities, or services in order to cultivate relationships for mutual benefit.

(Based on work from: *Collaborate: The Art of We* by Dan Sanker)