

Transforming Classrooms, Strengthening Schools

A Year of Progress: WLC + Transcend (2024-2025)

▶ OUR PARTNERSHIP

This year, Transcend partnered with the Wilmington Learning Collaborative to help teacher leaders design, test, and refine innovative classroom experiences that meet the real needs of students—and move schools toward extraordinary learning environments. Through workshops, inspiration visits, and real-world testing, we equipped educators with the tools to reimagine learning and shift outcomes for their students.

▶ OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

35 Teacher Leader Fellows across 11 schools (9 WLC schools + 2 Charter School Partners) designed and tested bold new classroom experiences focused on belonging, engagement, agency, and academic growth. Here's what they achieved:

✓ Students Felt a Stronger Sense of Belonging

- 90% of fellows reported their test improved peer relationships and student-teacher trust
- At Pritchett, students and staff across roles participated in a joyful, competitive house system—boosting morale and deepening connection
- At Shortlidge, students independently decided to support a classmate who had been previously excluded, demonstrating deep culture shift

✓ Academic Confidence and Performance Increased

- At Johnson, early readers showed measurable growth in phonics and decoding after two weeks of targeted station work
- At Pulaski, differentiated math groups led to greater student independence and confidence across all tiers of learners
- At Warner, students began restating math questions and writing complete responses—a huge leap in writing fluency and comprehension

✓ Behavior and Engagement Improved

- Over 70% of fellows noted decreases in off-task behavior and disciplinary incidents during their test
- At Eastside Charter, students began encouraging peers and showing increased care for classmates—shifting classroom dynamics in just two weeks
- At Bayard, daily affirmations and structured check-ins resulted in less peer conflict and more on-task learning time

✓ Teachers Gained Clarity, Confidence, and Momentum

- 100% of fellows completed a test aligned to a priority Leap—building momentum toward student-centered learning

- Over 80% of teachers reported they plan to continue or expand their test experience in the coming school year
- Teachers reported feeling reinvigorated and reconnected to why they teach
- Teachers let go of limiting beliefs about what students could handle and embraced bold, student-centered ideas. Many expressed that the two-week test helped them "see what's truly possible" when students are trusted with more ownership.
- Fellows gained a sharper vision for what student-centered learning looks like in their setting—and what it will take to make it real. Through inspiration, testing, and reflection, they developed a grounded sense of direction for the work ahead.

▶ **WHAT HAPPENED IN CLASSROOMS?**

In just two weeks, classrooms across WLC saw powerful shifts: at Bayard, students built stronger peer relationships through affirmations and seminars, leading to fewer behavior issues and more engagement in math; at Johnson, station rotations boosted early reading skills and confidence; Kuumba students found their voices through music and performance; Pritchett's house competition sparked joy, morale, and schoolwide engagement; and at Eastside Charter, students took charge of their learning through collaboration and critical thinking. And this was just the beginning.

▶ **WHY STUDENT EXPERIENCE MATTERS**

According to [Transcend's national research](#):

- Students reporting high-quality experiences have 15% higher GPAs
- They score 27% higher on state math assessments
- They experience 34% fewer in-school suspensions
- They are 33% less likely to be chronically absent

Shifting student experience doesn't just feel good—it transforms academic and behavioral outcomes.

▶ **WHAT'S NEXT**

WLC educators are ready to scale these classroom experiences, deepen impact, and coach peers. Continued investment means:

- *More students experiencing belonging, challenge, and purpose*
- *More teachers equipped to lead change*
- *More momentum toward extraordinary learning for all*

Let's build on this year's progress and keep designing schools our students deserve.