

An underwater photograph showing two divers and a sea turtle. The divers are wearing yellow and black diving masks and are positioned behind the turtle. The turtle is swimming towards the camera. The water is clear and blue.

BIG
PICTURE
LEARNING
GLOBAL
LEARNING
EXCHANGE
BARBADOS
FEBRUARY 2-8, 2026



Big Picture Learning's (BPL) mission is to activate the potential of schools, systems and education through student-driven, real-world learning. We have been pursuing that mission since 1995; at the leading edge, improving student opportunities and successes – as well as adult practice – through schools, innovation and influence. **Our vision is for all young people to lead lives of their own design**, made possible through a focus on one student at a time and authentic, real-world learning and assessment.

We invite district leaders, school teams, and educators to participate in a powerful, weeklong professional learning exchange in Barbados, designed to deepen understanding of global education transformation, learner-centered assessment, and whole-child development. This program is an ideal opportunity for public and traditional school districts to invest in high-quality professional development that aligns with future-ready learning goals.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING THEMES

Learning From a Thriving

International K-12 School: Beyond the Box Education, a pioneering BPL school in Barbados, operates with full government recognition inside a traditional system. Through immersive school-based learning across primary and secondary grades, participants will observe powerful instructional practices in real time, including Interest-Driven Project-Based Learning, Advisory, Real World Learning (internships) and Authentic Assessments (IBPLC).

International Big Picture Learning Credential (IBPLC) Training:

Participants will engage in deep, hands-on training in the IBPLC, an internationally recognized performance-based assessment aligned to real-world skills and competencies. This training, typically valued at \$20,000 per person, is fully included in the cost of the trip, offering significant value for participating districts.

Whole child development through

BPLiving: Well-being, sustainability, and cultural connection are integrated into the educational experience at Beyond the Box. Educators will learn from staff, students, and community partners how BP Living practices such as Nourish (nutrient-dense foods), Chill (Stress Management), Move (Physical Activity), and Social (Meaningful Relationships) play an integral role in student growth.

Barbados' National Education

Transformation: Barbados is undergoing a bold, government-led reform to modernize and humanize its education system. District leaders will explore how this national initiative is being implemented on the ground and consider how lessons from this change effort may inform local efforts in the U.S.

LOGISTICS

- ❑ **Lodging:** [Accra Beach Hotel](#), Rockley neighborhood. Walkable access to local shops, beaches, and restaurants.
- ❑ **Transportation:** Daily shuttles to/from the school site. Group airport transfers provided.
- ❑ **Meals:** On school site breakfast and lunches, cultural dinners, and culinary experiences (budgeting for local options).
- ❑ **Capacity:** Limited to 30 participants to preserve intimacy and maximize connection.

Time	Monday Feb 2	Tuesday Feb 3	Wednesday Feb 4	Thursday Feb 5	Friday Feb 6	Saturday Feb 7	Sunday Feb 8
Morning 8:00-10:30 AM	Travel & Arrival	School Tour + Overview of IBPLC	Interest-Driv en PBL in Action Classroom Observations	Advisory + LTI Scaffolding Observations	Real World Learning: Internship Visits	Independent Play & Unstructured Observation	Departure Day
Mid Morning 10:30-12:00 PM		IBPLC Training + Reflection	IBPLC Training + Reflection	IBPLC Training + Reflection	IBPLC Training + Reflection		
Afternoon 1:00-2:30 PM		BP Living: Nourish Plant-Based Cooking Workshop	BP Living: Chill Yoga & Stress Management	BP Living: Move Hike: Coastal Walk & Guided Nature Reflection	BP Living: Social Community BBQ/ picnic at the school with families.		
Evening 6:00-8:00 PM	Welcome Dinner & Sunset Gathering	Group Dinner	Group Dinner	Group Dinner	Group Dinner	Dinner on your own Sunset Gathering	

HIGH LEVEL AGENDA

INTENDED LEARNER OUTCOMES/ COMPETENCIES FOR PARTICIPANTS

All participating educators and district leaders will leave the exchange with:

Competency 1: Learner-Centered Instructional Design // Ability to design and support personalized, project-based learning experiences aligned to student interests and real-world relevance.

Competency 2: Performance-Based Assessment Literacy // Exposure to authentic, evidence-based assessment through the IBPLC process, including documentation, reflection, and exhibitions of learning.

Competency 3: Systems Thinking for Educational Change // Insight into how national systems like that of Barbados are shifting toward holistic, inclusive models and how to translate these lessons to U.S. contexts.

Competency 4: Leadership for Whole-Child Development // Practical tools for integrating wellness, identity, sustainability, and social-emotional development into leadership and school design.

Competency 5: Global Perspective and Cross-Cultural Competence // Deeper cultural awareness and empathy developed through immersive international learning, reflection, and dialogue with educators, families, and students in Barbados.



To register for this experience, please visit bplevents.org. For additional information, please reach out to:



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