

Debate-Inspired Classrooms: Cross-School Cohort Learning Graduate Class - 2024-2025 School Year

WHAT IS DEBATE-INSPIRED CLASSROOMS?

The Boston Debate League's Debate-Inspired Classrooms program supports schools and teachers across all content areas in leading classrooms inspired by the elements that make debate a powerful learning experience. Through the program, BDL offers teachers coaching, professional development, and tools that put **student voice, argumentation, and collaboration at the center of the classroom**. In debate-inspired classrooms, students question, support, and challenge one another, engage in rigorous thought, and co-create their own learning.

PURPOSE OF DEBATE-INSPIRED CLASSROOMS CROSS-SCHOOL COHORT

1. A professional learning community of 6-10 educators across content areas and across different schools and districts will:
 - a. Build a deep foundation in Debate-Inspired Classrooms practices
 - b. Use those practices in their classrooms
 - c. Reflect on and deepen their skill as practitioners
 - d. Gain inspiration, insight, resources, and connections through being part of a debate-inspired professional learning community
2. Their students will experience inclusive classroom learning communities in which they strengthen their argumentation skills; collaborate; and develop self-efficacy.

FOR WHO

The Cross-School Virtual Cohort is open to all educators, both those new to and experienced in Debate-Inspired Classrooms, who:

- Want to use and deepen debate-inspired practices in their classrooms
- Seek to engage in collaborative learning with a professional learning cohort in this work
- Currently work at a school that does not have an active DI Classroom partnership

BOSTON DEBATE LEAGUE'S VISION:

All young people in Boston are: **ENGAGED** in critical discourse, **INFORMED** by evidence, **EMPOWERED** to lead.

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STRUCTURE

A cohort of 6-10 teachers will engage in professional development and coaching throughout the school year to support their infusion of debate-inspired practices in their classrooms.

The Cross-School Cohort has two phases: 1) Summer Institute, which will launch the work for all teachers, begin to build community amongst the cohort, and establish an essential common foundation in the Debate-Inspired Classrooms approach; and 2) School-Year Cohort Learning.

SUMMER Institute	SCHOOL YEAR Cohort Learning September 2024 - June 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-Day Summer Institute (In-Person): Cohort members will launch their work by participating in the two-day Debate-Inspired Educator Institute on August 21 - 22, 2024, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm). This summit-style institute will have an intro track for educators new to DI Classrooms, as well as numerous workshops and teacher leader-led sessions for those who are more experienced in the work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Year Cohort PD Sessions (Virtual): Cohort members will engage in monthly two-hour cohort professional learning sessions. These sessions, facilitated by a BDL Instructional Coach, will include experiential learning of new DI Classrooms strategies, and small group planning and debriefing debate-inspired activities for their own classrooms. • School Year One-on-One Coaching (Virtual): Cohort members will also have the opportunity to meet individually with BDL coaches for more tailored support, during monthly BDL Coach Office Hours.

RESOURCES & GRADUATE CREDITS

Educators in the Cross-School Virtual Cohort will gain access to:

1. Full electronic suite of Debate-Inspired Classrooms resources
2. Credits - Option for one of the following:
 - 3 Graduate Credits, offered through Framingham State University (open to all)
 - 30 Academic Ladder Credits, offered by Boston Public Schools (BPS teachers only)

PRICE

The cost for participating in the cohort is **\$2,000/teacher**. This cost covers participation in both the Summer Institute and School Year Cohort Learning; access to the full suite of Debate-Inspired Classrooms electronic resources; and graduate course fee to Framingham State University as relevant.

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