



Recap: BT Partner Townhall – October 8, 2025

Theme: *Reimagining – An Ecosystem in Motion*

Big Thought is shifting from siloed systems initiatives to a unified, adaptive ecosystem model that better serves youth and community needs, and more effectively supports partner organizations operating within the ecosystem. This transformation reflects both internal restructuring and a renewed commitment to collaborative systems work.

Key Updates & Announcements

Unified Delivery Model

- BT has consolidated its three service departments (direct youth programs, learning systems, Big Thought Institute) into one core service led by Greg MacPherson.
- This streamlines collaboration and delivery across youth programs, learning systems, and consulting.

Learning Partners

- Learning Partners Catalog
 - For 2025-26, the traditional Learning Partners Catalog booking model will shift from centralized DISD funding allocated to campuses based on a per student basis to campus-based discretionary bookings.
 - The Learning Partners Catalog will be shared with all 240+ Dallas ISD campuses - elementary, middle and high school. This allows partners to offer programming for more than just elementary aged students.
 - The Learning Partners Catalog program listings will begin to integrate alignment to The Creator Archetype, in addition to TEKS
 - Annual Catalog RFQ opens October 15 and details will be posted to <https://bigthought.org/resources-for-partners/>
- Curated Grade Level Experiences *NEW*
 - Centralize DISD funding is being allocated to a new curated grade-level strategy. This is being piloted in the 2025-26 school year with a 7th grade on-campus assembly program model.
 - Big Thought has released a Call for Interest related to this opportunity. The Call is open through October 14 and details can be found at <https://bigthought.org/resources-for-partners/>



Dallas City of Learning (DCoL)

- Current DCoL platform remains active for 2025–26 for program listings, enrollment and attendance, and digital badging (13+).
- Evaluation partnership with SMU CORE continues; new longitudinal outcomes report and supplemental publications to be released later this fall.
- Neighborhood Resource Initiative and Learning Hubs paused for redesign.
- Expanded Learning Information System (ELIS) continues with key changes:
 - Online dynamic dashboard replaced with release of annual data sheets
 - Initial pilot release of data sheets to occur in late winter/early spring for DCoL partners who engaged and shared data during the 2024-25 program year

One Door, All Access Platform

- New integrated system launching in development to unify all ecosystem initiatives (LP, DCoL, Opportunity Youth)
- Features include booking, badging, data warehousing, career matching, and more.
- Development underway and will continue throughout 2026; will be rolled out in phases
- Architecture is modular, allowing for services/resources to be scalable to other districts and cities.

Reimagining Roundtable Series

- Launching in December to co-design the future of the ecosystem with partners.
- Topics include shared vision, measurement, reinforcing activities, and communication.
- Dates will be announced in November

Calls to Action

- Submit interest for 7th grade assemblies by **October 14** ([More Details](#))
- Participate in the Learning Partners **Catalog RFQ** opening **October 15** ([More Details](#))
- Continue to **engage with DCoL** by listing OST programs, sharing enrollment & attendance, and digital badging – **Ongoing** ([More Details](#))
- Join the **Reimagining Roundtables** (dates announced in November)

Partner Support

- Announcements and opportunities found at <https://bigthought.org/resources-for-partners/>
- Technical assistance available via partners@bigthought.org.