# Continuing Professional Studies & Conferences for Educators

## Continuing Professional Studies

Continuing Professional Studies (CPS) is the continuing education program at Bank Street Graduate School of Education. Supporting lifelong learning, CPS offers customized professional development services for schools and community organizations; short-format courses and workshops for educators; conferences for teachers, caregivers, and school leadership; and a travel program for educators to gain first-hand experience in broadening their knowledge around issues that shape and challenge our country and the world.

### School-Based Professional Development

CPS creates programs to improve teaching and learning across a variety of areas and contexts. We partner with leadership in public, charter, and independent schools and community-based organizations to provide professional development tailored to meet their goals. Subject matter experts are available to work with teams to strengthen practice on-site and online.

Our approach is grounded in Bank Street's belief that adults, like children, learn best when they are actively engaged with materials, ideas, and people in the world around them. We begin our collaborative, customized programs by identifying the strengths of program partners and creating learning opportunities that meet educators where they are to improve knowledge and practice.

### Short-Format Continuing Education Courses and Workshops

Our short-format continuing education courses are offered during the school year and summer to extend practitioner learning and deepen the impact of educators. Our programs are strongly grounded in theory and the understanding of human development with a focus on practical application. All courses and workshops are led by experts in the field. Courses are offered for New York State Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) hours, Continuing Education Units, or graduate-level credit. CPS also offers three state-mandated workshops and preparation classes for the New York State Content Specialty Test.

### The Long Trip

Developed by Bank Street founder Lucy Sprague Mitchell in 1935, The Long Trip offers educators the opportunity to engage with the world more deeply to understand how culture, practice, environment, and policy intersect to impact educational settings and student learning.

Participants meet with local people and explore the complexity of a distant environment, observing the way in which its social and political climates impact the region's children, their education, and their families. Past Long Trips have taken place in Detroit, Michigan; Selma, Alabama; Copenhagen, Denmark; Panama; Cuba; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and other locations. The location of the 2026 program was Guatemala.

Historically, Bank Street's Long Trips have played a vital role in increasing educators' understanding of the issues that shape and challenge our country. Mitchell believed that we must not lose sight of the sociopolitical aim of educators in a democratic society and that seeing the world through another's eyes would bring greater empathy and care, as well as a desire to engage in the world more deeply and actively.



## Conferences and Institutes for Educators

Bank Street hosts conferences for educators, caregivers, and leaders to support continued learning and re-energize the practice of adult participants. Conferences are held in online, in-person, and hybrid formats.

- **Teaching Kindergarten Conference (March/April):** Provides an opportunity for educators to explore the critical importance of play-based learning and identify how to address the modern-day challenges educators face when kindergarten becomes the new first grade.
- **Infancy Institute (June):** Supports caregivers, teachers, directors, specialists, social workers, and others who work with infants and toddlers. Workshops focus on curriculum, development, challenging behaviors, working with families, and emotionally responsive practice, among other topics.
- **Building for Education and Democracy Conference (July):** Helps pre-K–12 educators navigate the current policy context while exploring the transformative potential of education to restore and renew democracy.
- **Summer Math Conference (August):** Offers a professional learning opportunity for K–12 educators, coaches, and school leaders to explore the essential components of cultivating joy and equity in mathematics education.
- **BookFest @ Bank Street (November):** Welcomes educators, librarians, and other professionals to a day of celebrating and discussing children's and teen books, featuring authors, illustrators, editors, reviewers, and scholars from the children's literature community.
- **Emotionally Responsive Schools Conference (December/January):** Supports teachers, social workers, and administrators in achieving a deep understanding of child development, social and emotional foundations for learning and well-being, parent engagement, and supportive techniques for building safe and nurturing school communities.









