The Learning Systems Institute (LSI) at Florida State University is at the forefront of developing innovative solutions that bridge theory and practice in education. Our experts' advanced research not only provides state-of-the-art methods but also a clear path for implementation. For more than 50 years, LSI has delivered systems that measurably improve the learning and performance of organizations and individuals here in Florida and globally.

Our University
Florida State University, founded in 1851, is recognized as a preeminent research university by the State of Florida. Located in the state capital city of Tallahassee, U.S. News & World Report ranks FSU No. 19 among public universities in the United States (2023), appearing in the Top 20 for the fourth consecutive year. Florida State offers leading undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. Many units have programs that consistently rank among the nation’s top twenty-five public universities, including those in Physics, Chemistry, Statistics, Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, Meteorology, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Criminology, Information, Creative Writing, Public Policy, Business, and Law.

Learning Systems Institute
Established in 1969, the Learning Systems Institute (LSI) is a multidisciplinary research and development organization dedicated to innovating learning to improve human performance. LSI is a leader in multidimensional education projects and capacity building for reform and strengthening educational systems. LSI faculty and staff have expertise in performance improvement, learning technologies, international development, teacher education, and professional development with extensive experience implementing educational programs in Florida, the United States, and 47 countries worldwide.

Since 1969, LSI has delivered systems that measurably improve the learning and performance of organizations and individuals here in Florida and across the world.
The Learning Systems Institute (LSI) at Florida State University is at the forefront of developing innovative solutions that bridge theory and practice in education. Our experts’ advanced research provides not only state-of-the-art methods but also a clear path for implementation. We have been providing innovative work for 53 years.

Our expert faculty and staff have delivered systems that measurably improve the learning and performance of organizations and individuals here in Florida and worldwide. Our work has earned LSI an international reputation for efficient and effective management and technical work that meets clients’ needs.

LSI is a leader in multidimensional education projects and capacity building for reforming and strengthening educational systems. LSI faculty and staff have expertise in performance improvement, learning technologies, international development, higher education capacity building, teacher training, instructional design and curriculum development, STEM education, education technology, policy and standard development, literacy, and inclusive education. LSI has extensive experience implementing educational programs in Florida, the United States, and 47 countries worldwide, with a strong record of managing multi-million-dollar research and service projects.

Since 1969, LSI awards have exceeded $750 million and the institute had 54 active projects working with 13 countries in the fiscal year 2021-22. LSI currently employs nearly two hundred faculty personnel, researchers, and support staff serving a variety of private, state, federal, and international clients.

“At USAID, we have a passion for education and high hopes for its future in Nigeria. In that spirit, this partnership (with LSI and FSU) played a critical role in ensuring the next generation of Nigerian children is equipped with the reading skills that will serve as the basis for a lifetime of learning.”
–USAID Nigeria Mission Director
Stephen M. Haykin
LSI's International Work
LSI has overseen dozens of projects globally. Areas of activity include basic education (primary and secondary), higher education, vocational training, health, urban development, education technology, teacher training, reading/literacy instruction, rural communication, girl's education, instructional design, accommodations, and modifications for students with special needs; learning disabilities libraries; STEM (science, technology, engineering, math); expert performance improvement; learning technologies; sector assessments and evaluations.

LSI has provided technical assistance to developing countries, many funded directly or indirectly by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. State Department, UNICEF, and other international donors. Most of these international projects aim to improve primary, secondary, and tertiary education and support educational reforms that call for pre and in-service teacher education, curriculum, and materials development for all these levels, including technical and vocational training for workforce development.

FCR-STEM
The Florida Center for Research in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (FCR–STEM) was created by the Florida Legislature and competitively awarded to Florida State University in 2007. It is another highly respected center operated by LSI faculty and staff. The mission of FCR-STEM is to help the State of Florida improve STEM teaching and learning in grades K-12 and prepare students for higher education and STEM careers in the 21st century. Through impacts on teacher knowledge and classroom practice, FCR-STEM strives to improve student achievement, narrow student achievement gaps, and increase student pursuit in STEM fields. These broad goals are addressed primarily through high-quality research, teacher professional development, and the development of innovative resources and tools to support instruction aligned with curriculum standards.

Among FCR-STEM’s significant accomplishments are the impacts of professional development on teacher and student outcomes, the design and delivery of intensive professional development for over 2,500 K-12 math and science teachers in Florida, and the development of CPALMS (www.cpalms.org). The CPALMS website contains over 12,000 free lessons and other instructional resources, vetted by content and teacher experts, plus online tools to support teachers’ planning and instruction. More than 250,000 Florida educators have an active account on CPALMS, and the platform has served more than 750,000,000 resource downloads.

IMPACT Driven: More than 40,000 Florida teachers have received training from CPALMS.
WORKING WITH LSI

At LSI, our mission is to improve learning and human performance globally, utilizing innovative approaches and implementation techniques. LSI is at the forefront of developing solutions that bridge theory and practice in education. Our experts’ advanced research provides state-of-the-art methods and a clear path for implementation. For more than 50 years and in 47 countries, LSI has delivered systems that measurably improve the learning and performance of organizations and individuals in Florida and worldwide.

LSI is dedicated to researching and developing instructional and non-instructional interventions to improve performance. Our efforts focus on how individuals and organizations perform complex tasks and how we can help them achieve their performance goals. Our analytical approach is systemic, and our solutions are interdisciplinary, incorporating cognitive and educational psychology as well as instructional and information technology. Our ability to reach any faculty member or department at Florida State University and year-round availability allow our LSI faculty and staff to provide unmatched resources and results.

At LSI, you have one point of contact that can reach any department or faculty member on FSU’s campus including:

- College of Education
- FSU Career Center
- FAMU-FSU College of Engineering
- Florida Center for Reading Research
- Department of Psychology
- School of Teacher Education

We have expertise managing both prime and sub awards of all sizes.

USAID ACTIVITY
PRIME IMPLEMENTATION

EVALUATIONS
MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT
TEACHER TRAINING

AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND

LSI at Florida State University offers unmatched access and availability to our faculty.
OUR EXPERTISE

For 53 years, LSI has been innovating and expanding its expertise. We are a multidisciplinary research and development organization dedicated to innovating learning to improve human performance. LSI’s project-based teams feature top researchers from multiple departments at FSU and leading institutions globally.

The team of researchers housed at LSI constitutes the institute’s core faculty. Faculty members from across the university are frequent contributors to the institute. LSI’s faculty members have expertise in research design and methodology across a range of approaches and techniques.

Specific strengths of recent work include reading research, experimental and quasi-experimental research of educational programs and interventions; collection, management, and analyses of large datasets; experimental studies utilizing nested designs and hierarchical data modeling; and value-added methodologies. Most of LSI’s lead research faculty hold a teaching appointment at Florida State University.

Instructional Design & Curriculum Development

LSI supports millions of students, educators, and professionals by developing teaching and learning resources based on the expertise of subject area experts. Award-winning educators and the latest research in learning and cognition, instructional design, and teaching methods.

Teacher Training/Learning

LSI has equipped tens of thousands of educators and industry professionals for success on the job by developing and delivering capacity-building workshops where participants enhance their content knowledge, improve their skills, and apply new learning in the real world.

Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation

LSI faculty are experts in a wide range of research methodologies and evaluation approaches, from large-scale randomized controlled trials to qualitative case studies. We have experience conducting research, monitoring, and evaluation worldwide, including in conflict and crisis settings.

Literacy

LSI faculty have deep expertise in promoting literacy in contexts around the world. Current and past projects have involved literacy materials development, teacher training, coaching, and literacy assessment development. Using evidence-based approaches, LSI faculty develop contextually-appropriate approaches in improving literacy outcomes.

Higher Education Capacity Building

LSI has engaged in higher education capacity building for more than 50 years. We take a collaborative, peer-to-peer approach to develop the skills of higher education faculty in various areas, including instruction, research, and administration.
Education Technology

For more than 40 years, LSI has been at the forefront of advancements in educational technology. Our faculty and staff have built applications and solutions used by millions of educators and students. Some of those innovations include CPALMS, the MySTEMKits curriculum with 3D printable manipulatives, CMAP for curriculum planning, and numerous apps and platforms. LSI creates applications that enhance teaching and learning by increasing efficiencies, making information more accessible, improving collaborations, and tools to provide just-in-time support and resources for teachers and students.

STEM Education

LSI houses The Florida Center for Research in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (FCR–STEM), a multidisciplinary research center created by the Florida Legislature and competitively awarded to Florida State University in 2007. The FCR-STEM’s mission is to help the State of Florida improve STEM teaching and learning in grades K-12 and prepare students for higher education and STEM careers in the 21st century. These broad goals are addressed primarily through high-quality research, teacher professional development, and the development of innovative resources and tools to support instruction aligned with curriculum standards.

Policy and Standards

In the U.S. and in countries around the world, LSI advises policymakers on setting standards, developing benchmarks, and setting education sector policies related to teachers and student outcomes.

Inclusive Education

LSI faculty are experts in creating customized services and supports to ensure all students with disabilities have the same educational, social, and future opportunities as their peers. We have more than 20 years of experience in this area, and LSI is also the home of the Florida Inclusion Network.
RECENT LSI PROJECTS

LSI is currently working on international projects with education professionals from Egypt, Lebanon, Malawi, the Philippines, Rwanda, Uzbekistan and Zambia. This past year, we worked on projects with 13 countries. The work being conducted by the LSI faculty and staff in the United States and around the world will allow educators all over the globe to impact millions of students.

Transforming Teacher Education – Zambia

The Learning Systems Institute (LSI) at Florida State University is leading a five-year, $15 million project sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development to improve pre-service teacher training in Zambia. LSI faculty, in collaboration with partners School-to-School International and the University of Zambia, will work with 12 universities and colleges of education in the country to improve the training of primary grade teachers. Over the five-year period, the “USAID Transforming Teacher Education Program” will give more than 60 Zambian teacher educators the skills to deliver effective instruction to 9,000 college and university students studying to become primary grade teachers.

Community College Administrator Program

Since 2014, LSI has worked with the U.S. State Department and in partnership with Santa Fe College to conduct the Community College Administrator Program. The initiative is intended to enhance international understanding of U.S. community colleges and U.S. community college systems. Overall, approximately 250 individuals from more than 200 institutions in 15 countries have participated in the CCAP.

Tuzone Gusoma Schools and Systems – Rwanda

In conjunction with FHI 360 and its partners, the Learning Systems Institute is working to ensure that literacy instruction of Kinyarwanda (an official language in Rwanda) in pre-primary and lower primary schools is high quality, inclusive, and effective. LSI helped to roll out a previously developed module on teaching literacy skills in the Kinyarwanda language that was delivered to instructors from Teacher Training Colleges across Rwanda. The LSI team also completed a Baseline Situation Assessment and a Rapid Situation Assessment presenting the findings to 50 national stakeholders. Finally, the LSI team worked closely with the Rwanda Education Board to establish a Teaching Practice Advisory Group. This group will review and refine the Teaching Practice Framework.
**Strengthening Teacher Education Practice - Malawi**

LSI is in its second year leading a $15.6 million project sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development to improve teacher training in Malawi. The Strengthening Teacher Education and Practice Activity will improve the higher education system that trains primary school teachers in the country as well as the professional development practices that support teachers through their careers.

LSI faculty is working with 16 teacher training colleges across the country to improve teacher education programs and develop new training materials related to literacy and numeracy education. Another part of the project will provide support to the Ministry of Education to deliver continuous professional development courses to teachers who are already in classrooms. The STEP project is a landmark investment by USAID to support the institutions of higher education that provide pre-service teacher education.

**ABC+: Advancing Basic Education - Philippines**

The ABC+: Advancing Basic Education in the Philippines project works with DepEd, local governments, and the private sector to address factors that contribute to low learning outcomes in Bicol (Region V) and Western Visayas (Region VI) and is also implementing a smaller set of interventions in select School Divisions in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). LSI is working with Bicol University and Western Visayas State University to design modules for university courses on early literacy development to strengthen the pre-service preparation of future teachers. The project also focuses on fostering a more equitable, inclusive, and nurturing climate for learning in the early grades as part of its social and emotional learning (SEL) focus.

**Education for Excellence Program - Uzbekistan**

To support the Ministry of Public Education in achieving its reform agenda, USAID initiated the four-year, $29.5 million Uzbekistan Education for Excellence Program in December 2019. The LSI team provided training, facilitation, and guidance on the development of the new curriculum standards for math, Uzbek language arts, and English as a foreign language. In addition, the LSI team helped the ministry in evaluating, choosing, and customizing textbooks for teaching English as a second language.

This is a significant transformation of the education system in the country that will have a very long-lasting effect.

LSI also led the development of a digital platform that will house all the curriculum standards, curricular materials, including textbooks and supplemental resources, and be used by all 300,000 teachers in Uzbekistan.