



EXPLANATORY METAPHOR

Charging Stations

A metaphor for educational opportunity and access



The story you're telling

Learning opportunities are like charging stations. At present, access to these stations varies greatly from one place to the next. We need to make powerful charging stations ubiquitous so every child can charge up to take an active role in their learning.



Strategically redirects thinking away from patterns such as:

- Consumerism
- Separate Fates
- Tangible Triad
- Willpower
- Zero-sum Thinking

Charging Stations



Concepts and ideas included in this frame element:

- **A complex infrastructure is required to distribute power to all the places it needs to go:** An intricate network of STEM learning environments is required to fuel knowledge creation and skills development across all communities.
- **Inequities in the supply of resources are a consequence of the system we've built, not any particular energy source:** Inequitable STEM education outcomes reflect structural deficiencies, not the individual characteristics of students, teachers, or parents.
- **Unreliable or spotty charging systems cause disruptions everywhere:** Unequal access to connected STEM learning environments stalls progress for everyone.
- **Charging stations can take many different forms:** Schools, museums, parks, libraries, and afterschool programs all fuel children's STEM learning.
- **How we supply power to the stations is a major factor in system reliability:** By securing things like set-up funding, staffing, and instructional resources, we can strengthen our STEM learning infrastructure and ensure a steady flow of energy through critical charging stations like neighborhood schools.
- **Strengthening and making repairs to the network benefits us all:** STEM learning environments make up an important shared infrastructure of charging stations—we all have a stake in improving its quality, dependability, and interconnectedness.



User notes:

- Use the metaphor to talk about differential access to connected STEM learning across geographical spaces. This framing strategy taps into a “flavor” of fairness—fairness across places—that Americans across the political spectrum find difficult to argue against.