



Roadmap for Innovation

The process of innovating within a real-world context is far from something that goes from A to B in a straight line and on a predictable timeline. That said, schools that have engaged in the work of inquiry-driven innovation have found it helpful to see an overall sketch of what going through such a process might look like and how they could employ the steps and resources used by schools whose stories are told throughout this book.

The following “roadmap,” shown in Figure 7.1, traces a loose route for innovating using the Framework for Inquiry-Driven Innovation. The path is meant to be fluid and winding rather than lockstep or linear. In fact, the innovation project journeys and case studies in Part Two of this book show that there is room for considerable variation from one school context to another, as well as moments of circling back or iteration. However, there is a clear overall trajectory to the process that involves creating a study group, building inquiry skills, gathering inspiration, developing an inquiry focus, making a plan, pilot testing, working with data, reflecting and sharing, and moving forward with the innovation developed by a study group. The roadmap broadly delineates these different phases of work, while also suggesting tools to use along the way; however, while some tools clearly fit better at one stage of the process than another, others can be frequently revisited, as indicated in specific tools in the toolkit that follows (Chapter 8).

Furthermore, using one tool may prompt study group members to return to an earlier phase of the process—or to hop ahead to a later one. Innovation communities and study groups might use this roadmap to structure their own approaches to inquiry-driven innovation, keeping in mind that it is a general process that offers a sense of the journey ahead while leaving plenty of room for customization. As you go through your own innovation journey, you may want to keep track of and reflect on how your unique roadmap is developing by using the Project Journey Mapping tool.

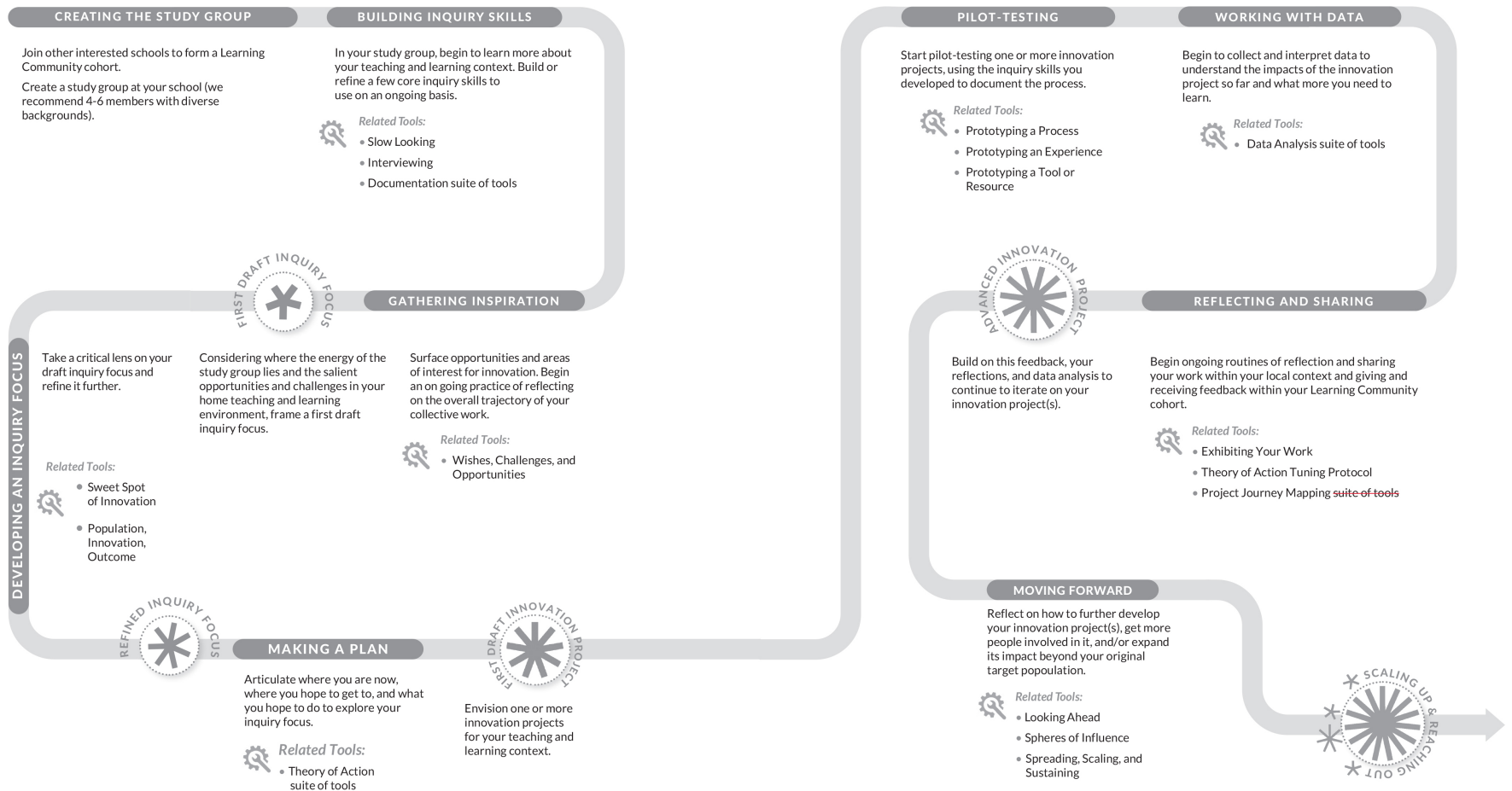


Figure 7.1 A flexible roadmap for inquiry-driven innovation.