Leadership and school culture create the foundation of schools that are future ready. School boards provide a vital pillar for transformation, in collaboration with their superintendents and district leaders, and in support of the communities they serve. Future Ready Schools® (FRS) School Boards™ support a dynamic culture of innovation, promote a vision for teaching and learning that is personal and authentic, and model desired outcomes by providing time and resources for district/school leaders and educators to grow professionally. FRS school boards affirm these characteristics through statements of vision, mission, core values, and goals that best support their communities. In addition, FRS school boards value effective communication structures to promote their forward-thinking vision and further support innovation and change to meet the vast needs of today's learners.

FRS school boards ensure equitable access to personal and authentic learning experiences for all students while supporting the redesign of learning spaces to match their envisioned pedagogy. They adopt and update policies and support practices that promote the effective and efficient use of data to support student learning while ensuring the highest levels of student privacy. In addition, FRS school boards recognize the importance of and allocate the necessary resources to support a robust infrastructure.

This framework affirms the belief that all students, regardless of where they live, should have access to opportunities that maximize their unique gifts and abilities. Leveraging this framework, FRS school boards seek input from internal and external stakeholders, forging a visionary and systemic path to support long-term financial, pedagogical, and political sustainability. School boards can use this FRS framework to ensure a long-term vision, systemic implementation, and sustainability as changes occur over time.
HOW FUTURE READY SCHOOL BOARDS™ SUPPORT STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT

Personalized Instructional Model

- Support and communicate a learner-centric vision that provides personal and authentic learning experiences and supports social-emotional development for all students while adopting the needed policies to realize that vision.
- Adopt curriculum, aligned to state standards, that ensures deeper learning outcomes connected to real-world applications, promotes positive digital citizenship, and prepares learners for future success.
- Support practices that leverage current and emerging technologies to accelerate the use of alternative and authentic assessments, to ensure equitable access to learning opportunities, while providing voice and choice for students as to how their learning is assessed.

PERSONALIZED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Ongoing and Job-Embedded Learning

- Support a districtwide culture of shared ownership for job-embedded professional growth, promoting voice, choice, and agency for educators at all levels.
- Support diverse, collaborative, ongoing opportunities for all educators to increase their skills.

ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure to Support Scalable and Flexible Instructional Delivery

- Ensure equity in access to high-quality devices and the bandwidth needed to support student learning at school and at home.
- Support the development and use of a flexible infrastructure that enables learning to occur regardless of time, place, or format.
- Support a formal cycle to review and refresh technology, aligned to the district’s vision and facility planning, to ensure a sustainable future.

BUDGET AND RESOURCES

Strategic Fiscal Planning

- In collaboration with the district leadership, seek opportunities to leverage efficiency and cost savings on an ongoing basis and provide consistent funding for sustainability and future needs.
- Upon recommendation by the superintendent, adopt budgets that align with strategic and tactical short- and long-term plans while working to eliminate expenses that no longer support the district’s vision.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Establish and Foster Relationships to Support District Culture and Vision

- Collaborate and engage community members, including, students, parents, businesses, organizations, and taxpayers without children in schools.
- Support systemic, districtwide messaging and celebration of success that models and amplifies the district brand through all relevant communication channels.

DATA AND PRIVACY

Use Data to Inform and Transform Instruction and Support Learner Agency

- Adopt clear policies and support practices on the use of student data that ensure high levels of data privacy and security and that adhere to state and federal laws.
- Foster a culture of utilizing multiple measures of data to inform instructional planning and student learning and to support the whole child.

USE OF SPACE AND TIME

Transform Learning Spaces and Support Anywhere, Anytime Learning

- Support the design of research-based learning spaces that are sensitive to gender and culture while amplifying student voice, choice, and agency.
- Support the design of learning spaces that align with personalized learning and learner-centered pedagogies.
- Support opportunities for students to access learning and the classroom in remote environments as needed.

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

Envision the Future

- Create a districtwide culture of innovation, grounded in trust, where teachers and administrators continuously plan, implement, measure, reflect, and refine systems and structures to sustain equitable learning experiences needed for students to thrive.
- Utilize data, including community feedback, to improve board practices and procedures that will sustain a learner-centered experience and district culture.
- School board members and superintendent take ownership of their learning and as a team, model effective governance practices.