



# Future Ready Schools® Leadership Cohort

The Future Ready Schools® (FRS) Leadership Cohort is a professional learning opportunity for school district teams within a state or region. We seek like-minded educators who strive to improve learning outcomes for their students through technology-enhanced instruction. To accomplish the cohort's goals, we emphasize collaborative leadership and positive school culture focusing on innovation, excellence, and equity. The cohort provides its participants with the following:



**Leadership, training, and networking**



**Action planning**



**Guidance and customized tools**

Our country's future health and financial well-being both depend on students' performance and experiences in our education system. There is no denying that today's system is at a critical crossroads. A high-quality education must be available to all students without exception. School systems must leverage technology to improve learning outcomes by personalizing their experiences and offering multiple pathways to success in work, college, and life.

Graduating from high school must no longer be seen as the end goal; it should be viewed as the beginning of a productive life-long journey with purpose and

direction. Today's educational system must fully equip every student with the skills needed to chart their course, allowing them to tap into their passions with a clear and deliberate path to a career and fulfilling life.

## Driving Systemic Change

The effective transformation from the traditional one-size-fits-all school system to a robust learner-centered learning environment takes intentional effort and courageous leadership at all system levels. FRS helps district leaders, principals, and teachers work together to transform their schools using collaborative, creative, and courageous practices that improve learning outcomes for all students.

## Our Approach: Vision – Plan – Implement – Repeat

### Leadership Capacity Is Key

FRS believes that ongoing, effective, and thoughtful planning is essential to redesigning traditional school systems into centers of innovation and excellence. We also believe that successful digital transformation takes collaborative, courageous, and creative leadership. The FRS network focuses on building these skills and mindsets among district leaders, resulting in a positive culture and successful change management in traditionally entrenched systems.

Frequently, the FRS initiative gets placed mistakenly in an “ed-tech” category among educators. In reality, FRS is a leadership network that focuses on improving outcomes for students—especially those in historically underserved communities—through technology-enabled instruction in robust learning environments.

## What Matters Most: Focus on Instruction and the Love of Learning

Buying devices and ensuring internet access is not sufficient to create change. Successful transition to a “future ready” school system happens when districts find a compelling blend of technology planning, collaborative leadership, and a sincere love for teaching and learning for the betterment of each student. As districts across the United States make enormous investments in technology—and plan for successful deployment—it is critical to emphasize the prioritization of improvements to instructional practices. Concentrating on what matters most will ensure that schools deliver technology’s promises for improved student outcomes.



## FRS Leadership Cohort Benefits

### Why Join a Leadership Cohort?

Now is an opportune time to join this cohort and harness our collective energy and expertise to deliver a world-class educational experience for every student, enabling America to emerge stronger postpandemic with students who are ready for success in work and life. District teams will benefit from participation as they work together to

- foster a growth mindset among teammates where policies and practices are student-centered, and goals are set for improved student outcomes;

- create dynamic schools that prepare students for their futures using improved instructional leadership; this work is not easy to do alone;
- assess readiness, identify gaps by gear, and achieve goals for implementing effective digital learning;
- learn about one-time creative uses of federal stimulus funds that support the effective implementation of high-quality digital learning strategies;
- build upon previous areas of strength and fill identified gaps;
- identify and redesign areas of need to better serve each student;
- unlock the training, tools, and collegial accountability needed to drive transformation;
- draw upon ideas from nationally renowned leaders in education leadership and school culture within the FRS framework;
- benefit from quick access to inspiring, relevant, and valuable content aligned with the FRS framework; and
- leverage the best aspects of Future Ready Schools to set and accomplish desired goals in changing student learning outcomes.



## Potential Outcomes

Districts that complete the cohort activities will experience unique outcomes based on the individual goals set at the beginning of the program. However, we anticipate those districts that finish the program may leave with the following

- Professional learning protocols to encourage and inspire innovative digital learning instructional models, frameworks, or strategies
- Skills, characteristics, and attributes of learners at one or various levels of development with instructional plans to achieve these goals for student learning
- A collection of instructional practices tested during the cohort that can be shared across the school system.
- A customized list of classroom tools that encourage teachers to innovate.
- A board presentation explaining the district's goals for advancing innovation, excellence, and equity.

## Program Components

The needs of the will determine the content of the cohort gathered from the initial in-person meeting and readiness assessment. Each event will model high-quality professional learning. Cohort activities include but are not limited to the following:

- A live introductory session for interested district leaders describing the program's benefits, components, and pricing.
- A one-day in-person kick-off workshop to build knowledge and awareness of the FRS framework, materials, and dashboard process.
- Monthly virtual 2-hour facilitated sessions to pinpoint goals, considerations, and recommendations, including the heart of the framework—student-centered learning—gear-by-gear, plus collaborative leadership
- An in-person capstone event to share final products and celebrate progress

## Team Composition:

### Invite Up to 10 People per Team

Create a FRS Leadership Cohort team entirely based on unique circumstances and local needs. Here are some suggestions on who could be invited:

- ✓ Superintendents
- ✓ Chief information officers, chief technology officers, or directors of technology
- ✓ District-level administrators
- ✓ Principals or assistant principals
- ✓ Curriculum directors
- ✓ Professional learning coordinators
- ✓ School board members
- ✓ Parents
- ✓ Students
- ✓ Community members

## Time Commitment: Six Months



Two full-day in-person events (beginning and end)



Four months of 2-hour virtual professional learning sessions



3-4 hours per month of team meetings outside of the cohort meetings referenced above

## Cost: \$6,500 Per District Team

This pricing is based on at least 15 districts signing up for this cohort with the components listed above. Add-on consulting services or technical assistance are available upon request for an additional fee.

## Contact Information

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# Future Ready Schools®

## Who We Are

All4Ed is a Washington, DC-based national policy, practice, and advocacy organization working to ensure that all students, regardless of circumstances, are given the preparation, opportunities, and support to pursue postsecondary education and succeed in life.

Future Ready Schools® (FRS) is the nation's largest network of innovative educators that provides multiple ways to engage, learn and participate, including a renowned planning framework, high-quality activities and events, training, implementation guides and toolkits, and role-alike learning communities. The network is comprised of 3,400 school districts and more than 42,000 school-based leaders representing more than 19.2 million (~30%) of America's students. The profile of the network's districts mirrors the country with urban, suburban, and rural districts from all 50 states.

## FRS's Content Expertise and Resources

All4Ed believes that technology planning is a powerful lever to redesign entire systems prioritizing excellence and innovation in student outcomes. This approach drives changes in policies and practices embedded in the FRS research-based framework and the **Interactive Data Dashboard**—a robust structure and process for digital learning visioning, planning, and implementation focused on student-centered learning.

The **FRS Framework** is **research-based** and emphasizes collaborative leadership and creating innovative positive school culture. All FRS content focuses on at least one of seven key areas (or gears) to show their interdependence on system design.

Each topic, or gear, should be addressed in the school redesign planning process. Student learning and well-being are positioned at the center of the framework to ensure it is at the heart of all decision making among school leaders.

As districts make enormous efforts to bridge the digital divide and close the homework gap locally, an urgent overarching instructional leadership effort is essential to ensure that these investments result in systemic changes with lasting improvements for our students. The FRS Leadership Cohort will

- leverage the collective experience of strong leaders within the existing network;
- provide practical expertise, leadership, guidance, and best practices;
- use rigorous research and evidence to advance district policies;
- build leadership capacity among district and school leaders; and
- provide resources, tools, and materials to ensure fidelity of implementation.

FRS is led by a **diverse group of more than 80 of the nation's most highly recognized educational practitioners** who serve on various advisory boards to transform education. These relationships uniquely connect FRS to the field and allow us to anticipate the needs of district and school leaders in ways unmatched by other national organizations. These advisors oversee the **six FRS leadership strands** and provide guidance, insight, and expertise necessary to tackle education's most crippling challenges.

