

Do You Want to See Systemic Change in America's Schools?

The Future Ready Schools[®] Network Helps District Leaders Shift Their Practices to Deliver the Quality Education Each Student Deserves



All4Ed's Future Ready Schools® Network

Every student, no matter their zip code, deserves access to a robust and fulfilling technology-enabled public education that prepares them for success in work and life.

Student Learning Is Changing: Shifting the Paradigm

You only need to watch a two-year-old child engage with his mother's smartphone or see a six-year-old intuitively use a tablet to gather information. The term "digital native" was coined to describe people who have lived their entire lives immersed in technology that changes how we work and live. As society and research catch up to this phenomenon, we know exposure to technology is inevitable and has changed the way our young people learn and interact with one another. Although the "three Rs" will always be core to students' learning objectives, the way students learn is shifting and evolving. This new and growing need must be addressed with gamification, virtual reality, social media engagement, learning sciences, and emerging technologies. With this shift comes necessary changes to education systems and the need to build new skills to be mastered by students, including digital literacy, computer science, and life skills like collaboration, communication, creativity, and connectivity.

Why This Is Critical to America's Success

Our country's future health and financial well-being 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 seen as the beginning of a productive life-long journey with purpose and direction. Today's educational systems must fully equip every student with the skills needed to chart their course by tapping into their passions with a clear and deliberate path to fruitful careers.

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. Future Ready Schools® (FRS) helps district leaders, principals, and teachers work together to transform their schools using collaborative, creative, and bold practices that improve learning outcomes for all students.



Photo by Allison Shelley for EDUimages

More Needs to Be Done. It's a Matter of Fairness

Many students, especially those of color and those living in poverty, are leaving high school unprepared for college and the workplace, but this is not by choice. In most cases, these students simply are not offered access to rigorous courses, real-world work experiences, and social-emotional support they need to thrive. Too often, a child's address, race, or family income determines the quality of education available. At All4Ed, we believe that building leadership capacity to implement effective emerging practices in America's schools will reduce barriers and support communities that historically have been denied an excellent education based on race, gender, socioeconomic status, and systemic injustice.

Nationwide, **nearly 86% of students graduate from high school** within four years, but this seemingly stellar rate tells an incomplete story. Even though more students are graduating, many lack the skills to succeed in college, work, and life. **Nearly 70% of beginning students at public two-year colleges** must take remedial courses to master material they should have learned in high school. Meanwhile, **82% of employers report that recent high school graduates have at least some gaps in preparation** for typical jobs in their companies.

Who We Are

All4Ed is a Washington, D.C.–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.

All4Ed's Future Ready Schools® network consists of 3,400 superintendents from all 50 states and

Puerto Rico, representing more than 42,000 forward-thinking district leaders and hundreds of thousands of teachers teaching over 19.2 million students (roughly 30% of America's students).

FRS is the nation's largest network of innovative educators that provides multiple ways to engage, learn and participate in authentic conversations and problem-solving activities. Our renowned planning framework, self-assessment dashboard, professional learning events, training, implementation guides, toolkits, and role-alike learning communities provide the backbone of the network engagement activities.

Established in 2014, Future Ready Schools® is led by All4Ed's FRS team and a **diverse group of more than 80 of the nation's most highly recognized educational practitioners**. The network is empowered and inspired by hundreds of **national and regional partners** who contribute to the content and provide expertise,

The Future Ready Schools network has provided my district and me with great resources and leadership growth opportunities. We have leveraged the Future Ready Dashboard to create our district's vision and plan (usd259.org/tech) which has been instrumental in providing technology-empowered learning opportunities for each student, including those who previously did not have access at home.

—Rob Dickson, Chief Information Officer
Wichita Public Schools, KS



The Opportunity

Solving challenges so that schools and districts emerge stronger postpandemic is now an urgent economic, social, and moral imperative for our nation's future success. District leaders across the United States are being called upon to reshape our educational systems. Federal funds have been provided for a one-time catalytic investment to realize schools' promises of innovation and excellence. The Rescue Plan Act of 2021 offers unprecedented federal investment for education leaders to discover the promise of technology for America's schools and students.

To maximize the potential of this historic investment, district and school leaders need critical training and resources on innovation, equity, and system redesign.

All4Ed is a nationally recognized leader in this area with expertise and demonstrated success in delivering high-quality professional learning and engagement opportunities for education leaders through the FRS network. We must advance a broad definition of digital equity that includes effective instruction and teacher professional learning to ensure new unintentional gaps are avoided.



Current Challenges

With the massive technology investments brought on by the pandemic response, it is up to district leaders to

- address necessary shifts in instructional pedagogy, professional learning, and school culture to leverage these technology tools for improved student outcomes and experiences;
- update infrastructure policies and practices that ensure responsible device use, address emerging cybersecurity needs, and support the necessary technologies for personalized learning;
- address home and school internet access to offer anytime, anywhere learning without interruption;
- measure equity gaps (in learning, practice, and policy) that plague our school systems;
- communicate with students' families about mental health and instructional progress;
- involve the community in school activities such as multiple pathways and workforce development programs; and
- ensure long-term sustainability, as, without a proper vision and plan, one-time funding can create a financial crisis when equipment needs to be replaced.



The Future Ready Schools Approach

The Future Ready Schools initiative frequently is misplaced in an “ed-tech” category among educators. In reality, Future Ready Schools 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.

Leadership Capacity Is Key

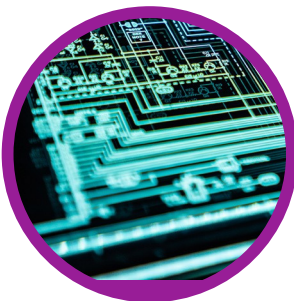


We believe that ongoing, effective, and thoughtful planning is essential to redesigning traditional school systems into centers of innovation and excellence. We also believe that successful digital transformation takes collaborative, courageous, and creative leadership. The Future Ready Schools® network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



Advancing Exemplars of Innovation, Excellence, and Equity

The FRS network acts as a convener, collaborator, publisher, promoter, counselor, emulator, and evangelist of “best practices” in technology-enabled education.

Future Ready Schools' Work and Resources

The FRS District Pledge is a starting point. It unleashes access to the FRS **framework**, **five-step planning dashboard**, **in-person events**, advocacy tips, virtual training, implementation guides, as well as six **role-based professional learning communities** for (1) **district leaders**, (2) **principals**, (3) **instructional coaches**, (4) **technology leaders**, (5) **librarians**, and (6) **school boards**.

The FRS network provides ongoing, consistent, relevant leadership content to district leaders and their teams. Through vigorous activities including in-person events, virtual workshops, podcasts, webinars, social media activities such as Twitter chats, blogs, training, and the elevation of innovative practices and exceptional educators, FRS changes mindsets and guides long-term growth for systemic improvement.

FRS Framework

The approach is validated through our research-based framework that emphasizes elements of systemic change. All FRS content focuses on at least one of seven critical areas depicted as gears to show their interdependence on system design. FRS's research-based **framework** is the foundation of our programming, emphasizing collaborative leadership, system redesign, and continuous improvement to accomplish technology-enabled, learner-centered educational experiences for all students.

Each topic, or gear, is addressed in the school redesign planning process. Student-centered learning is positioned at the center of the framework to ensure it is at the heart of all decisionmaking among school leaders.



Consistent High-Quality Content

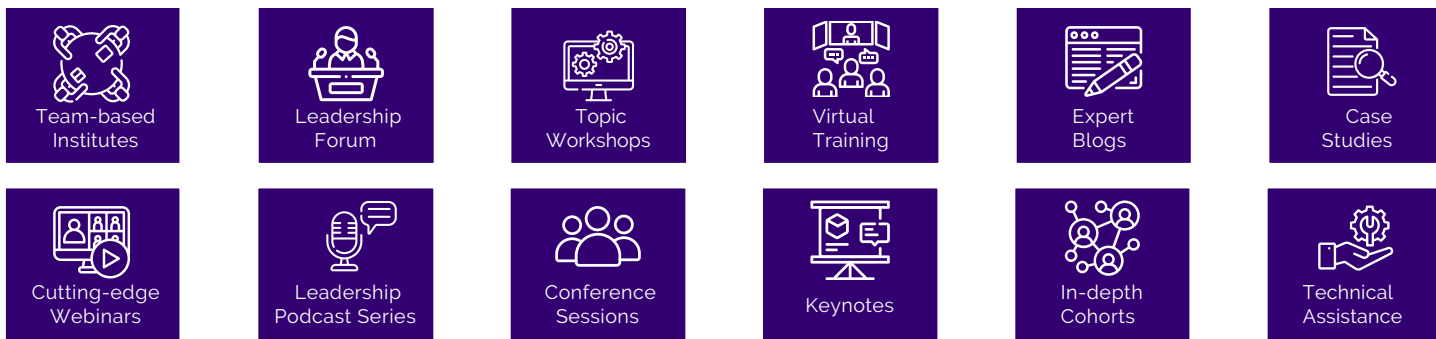
The FRS network consistently publishes relevant resources through blogs, toolkits, webinars, podcasts, and publications. Driven by the needs of the network and led by our diverse group of advisors, FRS is the go-to resource for district and school leaders seeking valuable information about school redesign enhanced through technology.

Planning Tools

The **Interactive Planning Dashboard**—a robust process for digital learning visioning, planning, and implementation—is provided through the FRS network free of charge to all district leadership teams across the United States.

Professional Learning Events

These events include in-person gatherings, virtual meetings, workshops, and social media activities for school and district leaders to hone their leadership skills and advance equity and excellence through innovation.



Professional Learning Communities

District administrators, librarians, instructional leaders, principals, and technology leaders share information and strategies through private, professional learning groups. These groups fuel innovation and encourage courageous leadership by unearthing new approaches and advancing promising practices in role-alike settings.

Ongoing, Consistent, and Relevant Professional Learning for School and District Leaders

Future Ready Schools is a go-to resource for school and district leaders seeking to transform their school systems from the traditional factory model to a robust personalized learning environment that benefits every student, no matter their zip code.

The FRS network is easy to join. It is member-led and driven by demonstrated needs in the field. We bring in the expertise needed to provide solutions to the challenges school and district leaders are facing. Every month, there is a flurry of activities available both live and archived, aligned with the Future Ready framework. Each activity features network members—those educators who have committed to improving the effectiveness of their school systems—who share their stories to bring exponential change in an unmatched order of magnitude.

Guidance and Technical Assistance

Future Ready Schools provides technical assistance to district leaders who use our planning tools and the readiness assessment. We also provide guidance about how to use federal funds and practices to close the homework gap and digital divide. In addition to the toolkits and guidebooks, we also offer in-depth consulting services through a leadership cohort mode

All4Ed is a leader in advancing digital learning policy and practice from the classroom to Congress with national advocacy efforts through the Future Ready Schools network. From eRate expansion, dual enrollment and high school reform policies, the Every Student Succeeds Act to pandemic recovery, All4ED provides comprehensive and grounded approaches to advancing key legislation and guidance. Being a part of this powerful network has given me a voice when it comes to state and federal policies that impact our district, which has made me a stronger leader and advocate for equity and excellence.

–Susan Enfield, Superintendent Washoe County School District, NV



Our People and Accomplishments

Everything we do is for the 19.2 million students represented by our education leaders.


The FRS network advances emerging practices that change the paradigm and influence students' lives, bringing seismic change to systems often entrenched in outdated approaches. Future Ready Schools prides itself on fostering authentic engagement among leaders and building strong relationships with our partners. Our people's expertise, passion, and commitment to changing the status quo in education are what make FRS so influential.

Our proudest accomplishment is the hardest to quantify. The ubiquitous use of the FRS framework has resulted in countless references and varied benefits in school board meetings, professional learning sessions, parent and community events.

National Leadership: From the Classroom to Congress

FRS works closely with All4Ed's policy team to ensure our advocacy efforts are relevant and respectful to the field. This close relationship between policy and practice sets All4Ed apart as a powerful and effective national policy organization. Some evidence of this collaboration includes:

- Launched Future Ready Schools with President Obama at the White House on November 17, 2014.
- Partnered with the US Department of Education to host 13 Future Ready Summits across the country in the fall of 2014 and spring of 2015.
- Led a coalition of national partners to address the digital divide with the "99 in 5" campaign to close the digital divide.
- Hosted several webinars with the FCC to shine a light on the growing homework gap and put this issue on the map.
- Identified practitioners to advocate for issues of utmost importance around college readiness, career pathways, dual enrollment, equity and innovation in America's schools.
- Led advocacy letters on critical topics including eRate expansion and American Connectivity Fund.
- Nominated and prepared FRS practitioners to testify on Capitol Hill.
- Advocated for effective digital learning and professional learning in ESSA.
- Promoted critical issues such as ACP, eRate expansion, and digital learning policy to practitioners in our network.
- Provided advocacy training to interested members of our network.
- Highlighted international rankings through PISA Day in 2014 and 2015
- Secretary Cardoza appeared via video on DLDAY 2022 to celebrate teachers and their resilience.
- FCC Chairperson, Jessica Rosenworcel, made numerous appearances on DLDAY to advance the notion of the homework gap.



I have been involved with the FRS network since its inception in 2014 and have been fortunate to meet and collaborate with so many passionate school leaders who are driving change while ensuring educational equity and excellence through innovation. In my tenure as Superintendent, I have benefitted from numerous FRS network opportunities.

–Jerry Almendarez, Superintendent Santa Ana Unified School District, CA



Network Growth & Impact

- 3,400 superintendents
- 42,000+ district and school leaders
- Six role-alike communities made up of district leaders, school boards, technology leaders, instructional coaches, and librarians
- 40 national partners
- 120 state and regional organizations
- 80 innovative and diverse advisors
- 450 innovation plans in districts across the US
- Nine state technology plans use the FRS framework
- 27 toolkits and guides
- Hundreds of webinars and blogs
- 10-12 annual events



Three New Programs

Through network surveys and landscape analysis, the Future Ready team has identified three key areas of focus for the coming 1-5 years. In addition to the bread and butter training and skill development activities we provide to school and district leaders, we will design deep guidance and comprehensive resources around three critical areas of growth that will enable equity and excellence through innovation.

Each program will be led by a well-respected former superintendent (or district leader) with demonstrated expertise and national notoriety in the field. The leader will recruit an advisory team of experienced educators from the FRS network and seek out federal, state-level, and regional partners to inform the work through a partnership coalition model.

1. Closing the Digital-Use Divide: Digital Equity

The digital divide in education remains one of America's most significant opportunities and daunting challenges. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Congress, Federal Communications Commission, and others have invested billions of dollars in closing the homework gap. Solving students' lack of technology access at home and school has been an urgent economic, social, and moral imperative for our nation in delivering on the national promise of opportunity for a generation of youth. The proposed Digital-Use Divide program will focus on deploying technology in the next three years with a keen eye toward more profound instructional use, self-eliance, and sustainability in 2025 and beyond. These practices are vital to avoid the potential funding "cliff" with fleeting federal ARP funds.

2. Advancing Emerging Practices and Technologies

Building on the proven track record of All4Ed's FRS network in creating relevant, robust, and rigorous experiences and content, we will create an Emerging Practices Affinity Network (EPAN) that will include a comprehensive suite of resources and activities to support district leaders as they implement emerging practices that advance innovation, excellence, and equity in schools across the United States.

3. Promoting Workforce Readiness in America's Schools

Our country's future health and financial well-being depend on students' performance and experiences in our education system today. One of the most critical responsibilities of a school system is to ensure students graduate with a solid plan for postsecondary success. This effort includes student self-awareness and understanding of their passions, aptitudes, and current opportunities in today's workforce.

We seek to elevate leaders, models, and exemplars of innovative workforce development programs in schools and districts across the United States. Through this effort, education leaders will explore ways of connecting education to labor with internships, pathways, regional data on jobs, and more.

PASSION LED US HERE

Join Us In Making a Difference

Ensuring Every Child Gets the Technology-Enabled Education They Deserve

Every student, no matter their zip code, deserves access to a robust and fulfilling technology-enabled public education that prepares them for success in work and life. It is clear that the nation gains when many more underperforming and historically underserved students have access and opportunity to achieve higher-paying careers that will provide tremendous financial success and stability for them, their families, and their communities.



Thomas Murray

Director of Innovation



Dr. Adam Phyll

Director of Professional Learning and Leadership



Lia Dossin

Director of Partnerships & Programs



Sara Hall

Vice President of Innovation and Networks

Please join the nation's largest network of innovative education leaders committed to developing a new paradigm for public education. Support for this network will maximize your impact and bring your efforts to scale.

Consider Investing in Future Ready Schools Today!



Join Today!

For more information about investing in All4Ed's mission through Future Ready Schools with cash or stock donations, please contact Sara Hall at:

Phone: 410-279-3368

Email: shall@all4Ed.org

Or donate directly at:
all4ed.org/donate



The Future Ready Schools network has a demonstrated track record of success. Our activities, resources, and network engagement provide district leaders with just-in-time support in creating a positive, robust, technology-enabled learning environment for each student in a school system. The approach focuses on leadership and building teachers' capacity to deliver high-quality instruction. With your help, we can have an exponential impact in the field advancing equity, excellence through innovation.

—Deb Delisle, All4Ed's President and CEO