



FUTURE SCHOOLS READY >>
PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

www.futurereadyschools.org

The Future Ready Schools Initiative is a bold new effort to maximize digital learning opportunities and help school districts move quickly toward preparing students for success in college, a career, and citizenship. Beginning with an active planning process, the initiative will help any district develop the human and technological capacity needed to personalize learning. With more than 1,000 districts already signing the *Future Ready District Pledge*, the [Alliance for Excellent Education \(the Alliance\)](#) and the [U.S. Department of Education \(ED\)](#) are leading this initiative with the support of the Leading Education by Advancing Digital (LEAD) Commission and a vast coalition of organizations.

This initiative comes at a critical time as districts embrace college and career readiness as the goal for all students and recognize the potential of digital tools to help teachers personalize learning for each student. The Future Ready Schools Initiative provides districts with resources and support to ensure that local technology and digital learning plans align with instructional best practices, are implemented by highly trained teachers, and lead to personalized learning experiences for all students, particularly those from traditionally underserved communities.

While less than 30 percent of U.S. schools have the bandwidth they need to teach using today's technology, federal and state efforts are expanding that capacity with the goal of bringing high-speed internet access to 99 percent of the nation's schools within five years. Such connectivity, along with strategic planning by districts to maximize its availability, has the potential to transform the educational experiences of all students, regardless of their background.

The Alliance and ED launched the Future Ready Schools Initiative on November 19, 2014, at "ConnectED to the Future," where 118 of the nation's most innovative superintendents gathered at the White House to share their experiences of implementing digital learning in their districts. The summit also recognized more than 1,000 district leaders from across the country who took the *Future Ready District Pledge*, indicating their commitment to develop the human and technological capacity needed to personalize learning using digital tools. Future Ready schools are those with empowered teachers and leaders, students who take charge of their learning, and the tools to support a more personalized approach to ensuring college and career readiness for all students.



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At the center of the initiative is a series of Future Ready Regional Summits where district teams will develop action plans and metrics to measure their progress in using digital tools to improve teaching and student learning outcomes. Regional summits will take place in 2015 in or near six to twelve of the following metropolitan areas: Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Chicago, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Phoenix, Arizona; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Raleigh, North Carolina; Seattle, Washington; San Francisco, California; St. Louis, Missouri; and Providence, Rhode Island.

The summits will focus on a comprehensive set of issues that drive student learning including curriculum, instruction, and assessment; professional learning; technology, networks, and hardware; budget and resources; data and privacy; use of time; and community partnerships. Trained facilitators skilled at using technology and digital learning effectively, many of them initiative partners, will lead the regional summits. The summits will highlight the experiences of districts in each region and offer district leaders tangible ways to build capacity among their teams and throughout their districts.

Before attending a regional summit, participating districts will complete a Future Ready self-assessment to identify the specific strengths and weaknesses of their technology infrastructure and staff capacity.

Each team will leave the summit with a concrete action plan for creating a Future Ready school district. The summits also will encourage cross-district collaboration as participants join an active network of regional experts and other district leaders committed to sharing information and lessons learned. Throughout the coming year, participating districts will access a collection of resources compiled by the Future Ready partner organizations to support them as they implement their digital learning plans.

The Future Ready Leadership Network will support all districts that take the *Future Ready District Pledge*, regardless of whether district representatives attend a summit. Through the Network, districts will access the Future Ready assessment and receive a customized report to guide their development of concrete action plans. Other Network features include (1) online resources crafted by local leaders and experts associated with more than twenty-five national partner organizations (listed below), (2) webinars and expert advisory chats, (3) information about district exemplars, (4) a community of mentoring districts, and (5) support tracking their progress as districts implement their plans.

Future Ready Schools Initiative Coalition Partners

LEAD Commission
American Association of School Administrators (AASA)
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
American Library Association (ALA)
Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ)
Clayton Christensen Institute
Common Sense Media
Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)
Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)
CUE
Data Quality Campaign (DQC)
Digital Learning Now
Digital Promise
Edcamp Foundation
EdSurge
EdTechTeam
EducationSuperHighway
Edutopia

EveryoneOn
Friday Institute
International Center for Leadership in Education
International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
The Learning Accelerator (TLA)
Learning First Alliance (LFA)
National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)
National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ)
National Education Association (NEA)
National PTA
National Rural Education Association (NREA)
National Writing Project (NWP)
NewSchools Venture Fund
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
Student Voice