



www.futureready.org

Future Ready Schools (FRS) is a bold 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 a systemic planning process, FRS will help any district develop the human and technological capacity needed to personalize learning. With more than 2,000 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 effort alongside a vast coalition of organizations.



This effort 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. FRS 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 FRS 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.

During phase one in 2015, and through the support of the Leading Education by Advancing Digital (LEAD) Commission, a series of National Future Ready Summits took place where district teams collaborated to develop action plans and metrics to measure their progress in using digital resources to improve and accelerate teaching and student learning outcomes. National summits took place in 2015 in thirteen

metropolitan areas: Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Phoenix, Arizona; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Raleigh, North Carolina; Vancouver, Washington; San Francisco, California; St. Louis, Missouri; Providence, Rhode Island; and Southern California.

The National Future Ready Summits focus on a comprehensive set of issues that drive student learning including school culture; leadership; curriculum, instruction, and assessment; personalized professional learning; technology and infrastructure; budget and resources; data and privacy; use of space and time; and community partnerships. Trained facilitators skilled at using technology and digital learning effectively, many of them FRS partners, lead the national summits. The National Future Ready Summits highlight the experiences of local school districts and offer district leaders tangible ways to build capacity among their teams, throughout their districts, and in their respective regions.

Before attending a national summit, participating districts utilize the [Future Ready Interactive Planning Dashboard \(Dashboard\)](#) to complete a comprehensive self-assessment to identify the specific strengths and needs of their technology implementation and staff capacity.

Each team leaves the summit with a concrete action plan for creating a Future Ready school district. The summits also encourage cross-district collaboration as participants join an active network of regional experts and other district leaders

committed to sharing information, lessons learned, and collaborative problem solving. In 2016, and as part of phase two of the FRS effort, participating districts will have the opportunity to attend a national summit, utilize the Dashboard, take part in regional planning workshops, access professional learning opportunities as part of the Future Ready Hub, and take advantage of a collection of resources compiled by the FRS partner organizations to support them as they implement their digital learning plans.

The Future Ready Hub and Dashboard will support all districts that take the *Future Ready District Pledge*, regardless of whether district representatives attend a summit. Through the Dashboard and Future Ready Hub, districts can access the various FRS self-assessments and receive customized reports to guide their development and implementation of systemic action plans. Other features of the Future Ready Hub include (1) online resources crafted by local leaders and experts associated with more than forty national partner organizations (listed below), (2) webinars and MOOCs, (3) conference connections, (4) information about district exemplars, (5) a community of mentoring districts, and (6) support tracking their progress as districts implement their plans.



Future Ready Schools National Partners

American Association of School Administrators (AASA)	Digital Learning Now	The Learning Accelerator (TLA)	National Writing Project (NWP)
American Association of School Librarians (AASL)	Digital Promise	Learning First Alliance (LFA)	NewSchools Venture Fund
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)	Edcamp Foundation	National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)	Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21)
Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ)	EdSurge	National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)	Pell Abacus
Clayton Christensen Institute	EdTechTeam	National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)	Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
Code.org	EducationSuperHighway	National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)	State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)
Common Sense Media	Educolor	National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ)	Student Voice
Connected Educators Month	Edutopia	National Education Association (NEA)	Teach for America (TFA)
Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)	EveryoneOn	National PTA	TICAL
Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)	Friday Institute	National Rural Education Association (NREA)	
Creative Commons	International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL)	National School Boards Association (NSBA)	
CUE	International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE)		
Data Quality Campaign (DQC)	International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)		
	LEAD Commission		