



[www.futurereadyschools.org](http://www.futurereadyschools.org)

Future Ready Schools (FRS) 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 a systemic planning process, the Future Ready Schools effort will help any district develop the human and technological capacity needed to personalize learning. With more than 1,900 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. Future Ready Schools 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 effort 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 Future Ready Schools Regional 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. Regional summits took place in 2015 in thirteen of the following 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 summits focus on a comprehensive set of issues that drive student learning including school culture; leadership; curriculum, instruction, and assessment; 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 Future Ready Schools partners, lead the regional summits. The summits highlight the experiences of districts in each region and offer district leaders tangible ways to build capacity among their teams, throughout their districts, and in the region.

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

Each team leaves each 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 Future Ready Schools effort, participating districts will have the opportunity to attend a regional summit, utilize the FRS Dashboard, take part in regional planning workshops, access professional learning opportunities as part of the FRS Leadership Network, 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 FRS Network and Dashboard will support all districts that take the *Future Ready District Pledge*, regardless of whether district representatives attend a summit. Through the FRS Dashboard and Leadership Network, districts can access the various FRS self-assessments and receive customized reports to guide their development and implementation of systemic action plans. Other FRS Leadership Network features 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) information about district exemplars, (4) a community of mentoring districts, and (5) support tracking their progress as districts implement their plans.

## Future Ready Schools Coalition Partners

American Association of School Administrators (AASA)  
American Association of School Librarians (AASL)  
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)  
Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ)  
Clayton Christensen Institute  
Code.org  
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 (ICLE)

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)  
LEAD Commission  
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 School Boards Association (NSBA)  
National Writing Project (NWP)  
NewSchools Venture Fund  
Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21)  
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)  
State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)  
Student Voice  
Teach for America (TFA)  
TICAL