

An Invitation to Participate in the High School Reimagined Project

How should communities redesign the education program in their high school(s) so that **all** graduates are prepared to be productive citizens in the 21st Century? How do communities redesign high school education programs to ensure that all students graduate college, career and life ready and are globally competitive?

The purpose of this project is to engage approximately 25 school districts in a discussion of the transformation of CT high schools. Through research, community discussion, and debate each of the 25 districts will develop a framework to continue work on high school transformation and answer the question: “What should high school education look like as we move past the factory model?”

Work on this project will culminate in a one-day convention in Hartford where the 25 district teams will consider, deliberate, and vote on the resolutions submitted by all of the teams. The resolutions that are accepted will be published in a brochure that will also be available as a digital version. All of the outcomes will be widely distributed.

The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) and the Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE) collaboratively sponsor this project. The Nellie Mae Education Foundation provides partial funding.

Implementation of any of the resolutions is at the discretion the district. Implementation is not a requirement of this project.

Teams:

All teams must include a minimum of 5 members:

Superintendent
Two high school students – junior year or lower
High School Administrator
Teacher

Depending on the number of applicant districts, larger districts will be able to invite 1 or 2 additional staff.

Purpose: *To provide school districts with a structure to:*

1. Examine and re-think high school education.
2. Expand and/or revise their vision for high school transformation through networking and collaboration with other districts.
3. Bring student voices into the discussion of high school redesign.
4. Provide input to local and state policy makers with respect to direction for high school transformation.



Tentative Timeline and Activities

February, 2016	Districts must submit applications by February 26, 2016 . Applications will be reviewed and districts selected. In the selection process we will be mindful to establish a cross-section of urban, suburban, and rural districts as well as both Alliance and non-Alliance districts. We will also consider the district's previous experience in high school redesign and coherence with other District initiatives. Finally, we will pay careful attention to how this project fits into and supports ongoing District work. Districts will be notified by March 4, 2016 .
March 2016 – September 2016	Superintendent appoints Task Force. This group can be of any size; but only five will be able to attend the Convention. On March 9, 2016 selected districts will receive a packet of sample resources for the Task Force to use as well as resources for reading. Some of the items will be: protocols and norms for the Task Force and focus groups; surveys for various constituencies; a PowerPoint to be used at public sessions; readings; websites; and sample resolutions. The first action of the Task Force is to identify ten to fifteen outcomes (knowledge, skills and dispositions) for all students to graduate from high school college, career and citizenship ready. We suggest that this be a discussion that includes all constituencies. The Task Force will conduct focus groups, surveys, and meetings for the purpose of gaining input from the stakeholders.
September, 2016	The Task Force will develop a series of resolutions about their Reimagined High School vision to be debated and voted on at the Convention in November/December 2016. Resolutions are due by September 30, 2016 .
October, 2016	Between October 24, 2016 and November 18, 2016 , CAPSS, CAS and CSDE will sponsor a series of conference calls on various groups of resolution topics. These calls are voluntary and will focus on specific topics such as: allocation of time, curriculum and assessment, instructional practices, mental health/supports, and student role in learning/engagement. For example, if a task force selects Mental Health/Supports as one area of focus, members may want to talk with other district's task forces that are also working on that area. The conference calls are designed to allow participants to share ideas and information prior to the Convention.
November, 2016	All district five person teams will come together for a one-day convention in Hartford, CT during the week of November 28, 2016 . Participants are encouraged to invite one of their legislators as an advisor to the team to participate at the Convention. Participating legislators will not be counted toward the maximum number for a team. Discussions and meetings at the Convention will be videotaped and archived for future use.
For further information on the project, contact:	Larry Schaefer – lschaefer@capss.org or 203-215-0133 Janet Garagliano – jgaragliano@capss.org or 203-430-5562 Tim Breslin – tbreslin@casciac.org or 203-250-1111



