

WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT FUTURE READY FACILITIES

Future Ready Schools

Students are at the center of the framework and the gears that surround the student are essential to support the personalization of learning. When we look at our current facilities, we are lacking in some key areas. Future READY Schools identifies key features of school structures and environments that support 21st Century Teaching and Learning within a Future READY framework.

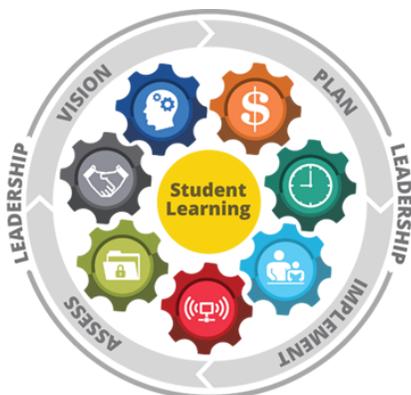
In order to best prepare our students to be Future READY we must:

- Revise and enhance curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- Train our teachers to be Future READY Teachers and Learners
- Provide Future READY resources and spaces

In order to provide Future READY spaces, we must:

DESIGN FOR FLEXIBILITY: Since no one can predict how educational technologies and teaching modalities will evolve, learning spaces must adapt to whatever changes the future may hold. To achieve this flexibility, architects are designing classrooms . . . with moveable furniture and walls that can easily be reconfigured for different class sizes and subjects. “Maker-spaces” provide space and tools (e.g., 3D printers, robotics, design software) to enable student creation. Technologies are increasingly mobile, with access provided through wireless broadband. Some thought leaders (e.g., Fielding, Nair, & Lackney, 2005) are creating a new language of school spaces in order to change the mental model, using terms such as “learning studios”, “learning plazas”, “collaboration zones”, and “project-planning rooms”.

Currently, our facilities are not designed for this framework. Most elementary schools are not able to support the number of classrooms needed for regular and special education, so they have taken over any available small and large group workspaces. We currently do not have creative labs for maker-spaces or the ability to have a common workspace surrounded by classrooms so interdisciplinary projects can occur. Our special needs population is becoming more complex. We need sensory spaces, various therapy spaces, and outdoor spaces. We need the ability to accommodate our English language learners, our gifted students as well as music and art studios and global studies workshops.

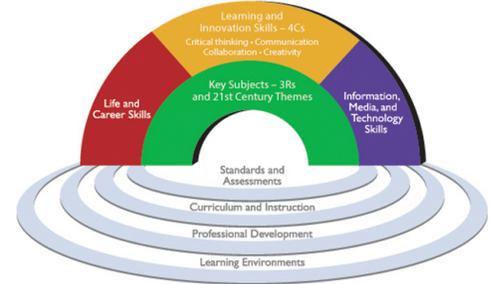


7 Gears of the Future Ready Framework

- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- Use of Space and Time
- Robust Infrastructure
- Data and Privacy
- Community Partnerships
- Personalized Professional Learning
- Budget and Resources

P21 Framework for 21st Century Learning

21st Century Student Outcomes & Support Systems



21st Century Outcomes

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship
- Communication
- Collaboration
- A growth mindset (metacognition / learning to learn, perseverance, and resilience)
- Local, global, and digital citizenship

DESIGN TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS:

School spaces should be designed to promote “cooperation and interaction and reduce the tensions that can lead to inattentiveness, acting up, and bullying. Educators need tools and spaces that enable collaborative planning and information sharing”

Currently, we do not have collaborative spaces for students or teachers. Collaborative spaces should include a variety of devices and tools, interactive white boards, construction materials, etc. where students and teachers solve real world problems.

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RECONFIGURE THE LIBRARY AS A “HUB” OF LEARNING: The library should offer places for “formal learning in which large groups can gather”; places for “social learning where teams can collaborate”; and places for “individual learning”. It becomes a place to connect students to the wider world by providing “audio and video communication technologies that build bridges between people and places all over the globe”.



Some school libraries are transforming themselves into “learning commons” (an idea pioneered in higher education) that “support learners by providing library resources, IT tools and support, tutoring, and other academic support services all in one central location” while at the same time becoming a “design studio to spur creativity and collaboration”

While our librarians have asked for such spaces and are trying to provide design studios and community spaces, they are constrained by design. Future READY Libraries are just that – a place students, teachers, parents and community can go to learn, create, design and yes, read.

DESIGN TO FACILITATE CONNECTIONS WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY: Schools can encourage learning that extends out into the local community through service projects, internships, and innovative sharing of space with the school’s local community. “Architects and school planners strongly suggest that educators seek input from the community when designing a new school or undertaking a major renovation”.

We will seek input from the community and determine how our buildings and campuses can serve the community in new ways. On-site preschools, dental and medical clinics, counseling services, adult classes, community workshops, open technology labs and libraries, etc. are a few ways we can serve as community schools. Currently we do not have the capacity to serve our community in these ways.



DESIGN FOR SUSTAINABILITY: Environmental factors such as lighting, air quality, and temperature affect student learning and should be incorporated into school design. Money saved from efficient lighting, ventilation, and temperature control can be reinvested in other things that directly contribute to student achievement, such as support staff or technological upgrades.

Currently, many of our facilities are the products of outdated design. They do not provide adequate natural lighting or climate controls, which can negatively impact student learning. Our schools should be designed to support instruction, rather than act as barriers to best practices in teaching and learning. Additionally, as was shown in the energy study conducted by McClure, there are substantial opportunities for cost shifting through the efficiencies gained with modernized infrastructure. Diverting costs from upkeep, repairs, and utilities into debt services can help offset construction costs and minimize the budgetary impact of these projects.

Our Options

In order to provide these spaces, we need to reclaim space, redraw boundaries and perhaps reconfigure building grade spans. The team considered this, the Future READY outcomes, the 21st Century design elements, RLPS data, survey results, subcommittee feedback and Decision Insite information when developing the options for your consideration. In one way or another, each option strives to provide a 21st Century, Future READY facilities for every student, staff member and community member in the West Shore School District.

Here are some links to learn more about 21st Century Schools and Future READY Schools.

<http://www.p21.org>

<http://futureready.org>

