

**Irvington School District**

**Envisioning the Future**



**Facilitated by  
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**Vision**



**Irvington as the best that it can be**

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**What do we know about the future that our students need to know?**

- 65% of today's elementary school students will hold jobs that don't exist today
- Today's learners will have 10-14 jobs by the age of 38 (US Department of Labor)
- 90% of the world's data has been generated in the past two years
- The amount of technical information is doubling every two years or half of what students working towards a 4 year technical degree will be outdated by their third year
- In 2014, human knowledge doubles every 13 months. By 2020 it will double every 12 hours

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Let's hear some experts talk about the future and learning

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In what ways do our schools attend to what the workplace values?

Valued outcomes	%
Leadership skills	89
Problem solving skills	75.3
Ability to work in a team	74.2
Detail oriented	57.5
Flexibility/Adaptability	57.5
Interpersonal skills	57
Organizational ability	49.5
Strategic planning skills	32.8
Creativity	25.8
Tactfulness	23.5

National Association of Colleges and Employees, NACE 2013

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**Preparation**

1. Turn paper so you are holding it landscape
2. Fold it in thirds, so that the paper resembles a trifold
3. Label the column to the right, "Vision"
4. Label the column to the left, "Current Reality"
5. Leave center column blank

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### Vision

1. Fold the paper so only the vision column is showing
2. Think about how you would describe Irvington schools as if they were the very best that they could be.
3. Use only words, phrases and/or images and respond from the perspective of your place in the district

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### Some Guiding Questions

At its very best...

- What would it be like?
- Who would be there?
- What would be happening?
- What would be important?
- How would people behave?
- How would it be different from what is today?  
What would you see more or less of?

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### “Shared” Vision

Working round robin in groups of 4

1. Each person shares only one word, phrase or image.
2. If you hear or see something that is the same or similar to something in your vision list, say “ditto” and put an asterisk (\*) next to it on your paper. The person who shared the item should also asterisk it.
3. If you hear something that you wish you’d written, add it to your list, add it and put an asterisk (\*) next to it. Say, “Adding” so that the person who shared the item, and anyone else who has it or adds it, can also asterisk it.

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**Your asterisks represent the parts of your vision that are shared by others in your district**

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*How can you maximize on this understanding?*

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### Sharing with the Large Group

- **Prioritize the items in your vision that have asterisks from most shared to least shared**
- **Identify a reporter for your group**
- **Each group reporter will share one of the items in your vision that was shared by the group**
- **Other reporters can ditto existing items listed and mention a new one**

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### Rotation

**Every person at a table should move to a different table**

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**Current Reality**

1. **Fold the paper so only the “Current Reality” column is showing**
2. **With your vision as the context (but without referring directly to it), describe Irvington schools as they are today.**
3. **As with the vision, use only words, phrases and/or images and respond from the perspective of your place in the district**

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**Some Guiding Questions**

Thinking about today...

- **What is it like?**
- **Who is there?**
- **What kind of work is produced?**
- **What is important?**
- **How do people behave?**
- **What do you hear?**
- **What does it “feel” like to be there?**

**Be sure to speak to what is, and not to what is missing.**

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**“Shared” Current Reality**

Working round robin,

1. **Each person shares only one word, phrase or image.**
2. **If you hear or see something that is the same or similar to something in your current reality list, say “ditto” and put an asterisk (\*) next to it on your paper. The person who shared the item should also asterisk it.**
3. **If you hear something that you wish you’d written, add it to your list, add it and put an asterisk (\*) next to it. Say, “Adding” so that the person who shared the item, and anyone else who has it or adds it, can also asterisk it.**

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### The Center Column – In small groups

1. Open your paper so that both “Vision” and “Current Reality” are showing.
2. The empty column in between represents the distance between where Irvington schools are now and where you believe they could be.
3. As a small group, generate words to define that distance. Stick with “topics” rather than words that imply positive or negative.
4. Prioritize the list.

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### Next steps

- Convene a cross-role learning committee that will consolidate the data gathered from all school stakeholders and use it to draft the district vision and goals.
- The cross-role learning committee will include approximately 15 individuals including teachers, administrators, students, members of the Board and the community.
- This work will be done between October 2015 and February 2016. Onsite sessions have been scheduled for 11/24, 12/8, 1/13, and 2/5.
- If you are interested in being a part of this committee, place an asterisk next to the sign in sheet upon leaving today.

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