

**Conversation Guide** 

Rethinking High School: Intentional Conversations Around Moving Forward With High School Redesign

## **Keynote: Why Redesign?**

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A review of how flexibility, personalization and student engagement can revolutionize high school learning. Brad will share insights from his work as a high school educator involved in implementing strategies to promote positive relationships and instructional practices that support student engagement and student success.

We invite you to use this conversation guide along with this presentation to engage in a dialogue about innovative high school practice.

Consider using this recording with staff, parents and/or students. What might be some of the outcomes you would highlight as you consider these different audiences?

Moving Forward with High School Redesign is about more than simply shifting a timetable. It's about shifting mindsets. The shift in mindset to a focus on student-centered learning happens as a number of key practices are put in place, including personalizing learning, intentionally developing meaningful relationships, creating rigorous and relevant learning opportunities, and supporting mastery learning. Schools that are focused on innovative, collaborative, comprehensive, and meaningful learning opportunities, are showing evidence of increasing student engagement and success.

## **Key Understandings:**

- High School Redesign is about creating a new and improved culture of learning in your school community.
- When planning your school redesign, use flexibility and collaboration as tools to improve personalization, with the goal of ultimately increasing student engagement.
- We must concern ourselves with better preparing our 21<sup>st</sup> century students' for the realities of life after high school.

## **Questions for Discussion:**

- 1. What do you want your improved learning culture to look and feel like?
- 2. How might backward design help to envision the learning community you wish to create?
- 3. Currently, are all of your students prepared for the realities of post-secondary?
- 4. How might your school better create a seamless transition from secondary to post-secondary?





