TOOL 2.3

Forecasting
scenario

PURPOSE
Help district leadership teams consider alternatives to the current reality and challenge the way the district functions in order to create a more successful system.

TIME
Three 1-hour sessions

MATERIALS
• Articles about highly successful school districts and schools around the world • Computers and Internet access • Chart paper • Pens, markers • Sticky notes • Tables arranged for groups of five or six

STEPS

Session 1: Literature review	
1.	Ask team members to read several articles about the world in which our students live and the trends that we see will impact them when they are adults. Share articles you have found with them and ask them to search. This step also may be done in advance of the session or in a separate session.
2.	Assign a team to one category and have them deeply explore their readings and trend data. Have them use Chart 1 to capture their observations. (Create a chart for each category.) Ask them to use complete sentences and to be precise about the trends they have discovered, sharing their sources.
3.	Ask each team to share its research. Challenge everyone on the team to engage in the conversation. Seek additional research if needed. Also challenge team members to think deeply about the implications for our educational approaches for students.
4.	Ask team members to reflect on the work and perhaps do additional research before the next session.

TOOL 2.3 *cont'd*

	Session 2: Developing a clearly articulated vision
1.	Explain to the team that this session is to articulate a vision for the district. Share that they also will create a theory of action that leads to a shared district vision in the third session.
2.	Redesign the groups so that everyone has an opportunity to work with new people.
3.	Use Template 2 to start the conversation. Ask people to clear their minds of the district's curriculum systems and designs, practices and policies, and current reality and to think as though they were creating a completely new district. Choose the categories that emerged from the research and are in the district's control.
4.	Work toward group consensus around the vision.
	Session 3: A theory of change that results in shared vision
1.	Ask team members to generate ways to engage the whole district staff in conversations that will lead to a shared vision. Have participants at each table generate a pathway to success jotting ideas on sticky notes and then arranging the sticky notes in a logical sequence.
2.	Have the group think about barriers that would hinder success and to include steps to remove those barriers. They may use a flow chart:
3.	Have each team share out, and then come to consensus about the theory of change.
4.	As facilitator, create a logic model with outputs, strategies, and timelines for the work.

Flow chart (within item 2):

Text	
Text	Text

↓

Text	
Text	Text

↓

Text	
Text	Text

TOOL 2.3 *cont'd*

Chart 1
Science and Technology

Trend	Effect on students	Implications for students' education
Technology is becoming so small that devices can be placed inside organs to read health information. (Source: *Scientific America*, 2014)		

TOOL 2.3 *cont'd*

Template 2

Our district is . . .						
We guarantee that all of our students will be highly successful in a world characterized by . . .						
Our principals and teachers are	Our curriculum is	Our district assessment system	Our parents	Our community	Our fiscal responsibility	Our learning educators engage in