

TOOL 2.2**Blue sky
scenario**

PURPOSE	
Stimulate district leaders' thinking about what a successful educational system for all students might look like.	
TIME	
Three 1-hour sessions	
MATERIALS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles about high 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 highly successful schools around the world. Share articles you have found with them and ask them to search for additional information. This step also may be done in advance of the session or in a separate session.
2.	Ask group members to use Chart 1 to capture their observations. Change the categories to fit your context, but be sure that the categories are areas within the district's control.
3.	Have group members generate ideas they are identifying in their research that they think have a positive effect on students.
4.	Host a gallery walk and a team conversation about what they are learning.

TOOL 2.2 *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.	Form new 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—clear blue sky! 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.	<p>Have the group think about barriers that would hinder success and to include steps to remove those barriers. They may use a flow chart:</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 20px 0;"> <pre> graph TD A[Text] --> B[Text Text] B --> C[Text] C --> D[Text Text] </pre> </div>
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.

TOOL 2.2 *cont'd*

Chart 1

	District leadership	Structure of the organization (length of the day/ structures of the schedules, etc.)	Curriculum/ assessment/ instruction	Principal/ teacher quality	Professional learning
1.					
2,					
3,					
4.					

