

New Vista Design's Educational Visioning Process

With the goal of helping schools and/or districts to move their thinking forward, and thus take maximum advantage of the opportunities afforded by a new school design project, New Vista Design's educational visioning process provides a targeted, sequential, and thorough exploration of "future ready" educational goals as connected to facility design priorities and possibilities. New Vista works closely with school leadership and key stakeholders to plan and facilitate a series of customized, highly participatory and engaging workshops that explore areas of focus determined to be most essential to each school's design and visioning needs

Potential Areas of Focus

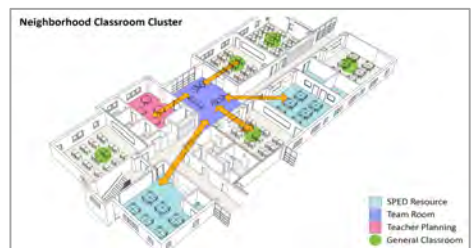
The visioning process begins with an exploration of future ready teaching and learning and best practices within forward-thinking and technology-rich learning environments. Areas that may be explored include the following:

- **Best Practice Examples**
 - Successful programs and initiatives
 - Curricular models and initiatives
 - Virtual and physical school tours
- **Future Ready Learning Goals**
 - The 6 Rs and 4 Cs
 - Universal Design for Learning, PBL, STEAM, and CTE
 - Technology integration and blended learning
 - Articulation of future ready learning goals
- **School and District Landscape**
 - School character and traditions
 - Present and future learning initiatives
 - Strengths, challenges, opportunities and goals

With the school's educational priorities and learning goals providing the foundation for the next phase of visioning, the process goes on to connect these to effective practices in school facility design.

Areas that may be explored include the following:

- **Priority Goals** for the new facility
- **Design Patterns** that foster 21st century teaching and learning
- **Blue Sky Ideas** that aim to meet aspirational goals
- **Guiding Principles** that set priorities and intent for the design
- **Key Spaces** and narrative descriptions of their character
- **Synergistic Adjacencies** that foster connections between spaces and programs
- **Bubble Diagrams** that illustrate important spatial relationships within the new facility
- **Conceptual Design Diagrams** that emanate from adjacency and bubble diagrams
- **Educational Plan** framing of key sections (for MSBA Feasibility Study projects)
- **Community Talking Points** for sharing and building buy-in



Stakeholder Groups

Because workshops are sequential and build upon one another, it is highly desirable to engage a consistent group of educational leaders and community stakeholders in the educational visioning process. Three levels of stakeholders and workshops are suggested:

1. **The Educational Leadership Team** (1-2 Meetings)
A group of 6-12 educational thought leaders (i.e. superintendent administrators, principals, and department heads) from within the district that engages in conversations about big picture strategies and priorities.
2. **The Educational Working Group** (2-4 Workshops)
A group of 20-60 stakeholders that includes members of the Educational Leadership Team (ELT) as well as school leadership and selected teachers, students, parents, and community partners. The Educational Working Group (EWG) works to flesh out the ELT's priorities by creating a set of clearly articulated Learning Goals, Priority Design Patterns, Guiding Principles, Adjacencies Diagrams, and Community Talking Points that will inform the design of the renovated and/or new school facility and create a clearly articulated educational and architectural vision that guides its design.
3. **Community and Faculty Forums** (1-2 Forums)
The larger community and/or faculty is led through some of the same activities that the EWG engaged in and invited to review, interact with, and give feedback on the materials and priorities created by the ELT and EWG. These workshops are intended to build community understanding, buy-in and excitement.



Educational Working Group DRAFT Agendas

The following DRAFT workshop outlines are for half-day (4-hour) experiences that -engage the Educational Working Group. Components of these workshops will be incorporated into the Educational Leadership Team and Community Forum meetings and workshops as determined by the school district.

Workshop One Draft Agenda Items

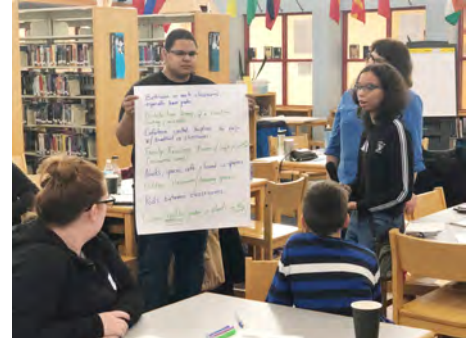
1. Brainstorm **Priority Goals** for the new facility or master plan
2. Discuss and review **Best Practices** in Future Ready teaching and learning
3. Create a set of **Future Ready Learning Goals** that distill the group's best thinking with regard to the school or district's current and future educational programming and priorities
4. Brainstorm the **Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities & Goals** (SCOG Analysis) associated with the school or district's current academic program as well as the vision for its new facility



Educational Working Group DRAFT Agendas Continued

Workshop Two Draft Agenda Items

1. Review *Priorities, Future Ready Learning Goals and SCOG Analysis* from Workshop One
2. Review and prioritize innovative **Design Patterns** that forward-thinking schools throughout the country have put into practice
3. Discuss the role that *Guiding Principles* play in setting facility design and master planning priorities and intent and create a set of **Guiding Principles** and priorities for design of the new school facility or master plan
4. Brainstorm a set of **Blue Sky Ideas** for the new facility or master plan



Workshop Three Draft Agenda Items (Could be half-day workshop)

1. Review **Design Patterns, Guiding Principles** and **Blue Sky Ideas** from Workshop Two
2. Generate a listing of **Key Spaces and Adjacencies** for the new facility or master plan
3. Engage in a **Bubble Diagramming Activity** to capture important spatial synergies and connections
4. Review **Educational Plan** framing and key concepts
5. Brainstorm and record **Community Talking Points** for sharing



Additional Possible Workshops and/or Focus Areas

1. **Educational Plan** assistance
2. Creation of **Design Guide** that articulates Educational Goals and Programming as connected to: **Desired Design Patterns; Guiding Principles; Key Spaces and Adjacencies; Design Recommendations; and Functional Architectural Program Development**
3. Consideration of **Grade Level Configurations** pros and cons
4. **School Study Tours** both virtual and physical
5. Continued development of **Conceptual Design Alternatives**





newvistadesign Envisioning 21st Century Schools

Founded in 2006 by licensed architect and trained educator David Stephen, New Vista Design is a Boston-based consulting firm that partners with schools, districts, charter management organizations, architectural firms, and foundations across the U.S. and abroad to facilitate the design of forward-thinking, dynamic, and technology-rich school programs and the facilities that house them.



Experience

With 18 years of experience as an architect and school designer, and 20 years of experience as a secondary school teacher, assistant principal, K-12 curriculum developer and teacher trainer, New Vista Design's David Stephen is fluent in the languages of both design and education. David has particular expertise in the design of programs and facilities that support student-centered and 21st century approaches to teaching and learning such as Project-Based Learning, STEM and STEAM, Career Tech Education and Design Thinking. He has served for the past 8 years as Co-Chair of the Harvard Graduate School of Education's LEFT (Learning Environments For Tomorrow) Institute.



Through his work as an Educational Planner, David seeks to help his clients articulate a clear and inspirational vision for their educational goals and priorities, then connect them to innovative design solutions for their master planning and building design projects. New Vista has played a key role in the design of a wide variety of award winning and reform-minded public, charter, and independent school programs and facilities, including:

- Over twenty MSBA K-12 school facilities from 2011-2017
- High Tech High network of charter schools, San Diego, CA
- Harlem Village Academies network of charter schools, Harlem, NY
- Denver School of Science and Technology network of schools, Denver, CO
- Henry Ford network of schools, Dearborn, MI
- MC2 High School, Cleveland, OH
- Da Vinci Schools, Wiseburn, CA
- Pingry School, Basking Ridge, NJ
- Dearborn 6-12 STEM Academy, Roxbury, MA
- Collegiate School for Boys, New York, NY
- d.Tech High School at Oracle, Redwood City, CA

For more information please visit www.newvistadesign.net