

Community Conversation on Blueprint for Education Session 1 Discussion Guide

INTRODUCTION

- Facilitator introduces him/herself and recorder
- We are glad you have joined us for this very important discussion.
- The work we will begin today will be the basis for the policy on graduation guidelines that this board will develop as required by a new state law.
- Of course, our school district and others across the state already have graduation requirements. However, the law now requires each school board to develop a blueprint for education in its community, and along with guidelines from the state board of education, the district will establish new local graduation requirements.
- These new graduation will take effect beginning with students enrolling in the 9th grade beginning July 1, 2009.
- Community dialogue is key to this process. Our graduation requirements must meet the state's minimum standards, but they must also fit our local circumstances and community desires.
- This is the first in a series of four meetings—or study circles—where we will determine the skills our students will need to be successful after graduation.
- The board will consider the community's ideas, along with staff recommendations to develop the blueprint and sets our district's graduation requirements.
- Inform group about what will be done with their work, the next steps in the process for developing the blueprint, when the board will act, etc.
- Group introductions.

GROUND RULES FOR DISCUSSION

- Let's talk about how we will conduct this discussion.



- I am here as your facilitator—your guide—but this is YOUR discussion. My job is to keep you within the parameters of time and task.
- Everyone has what he or she needs to participate—you thoughts, your experiences and your ideas. You do not have to be an expert or have all the facts.
- When someone has the floor, can we all agree to listen respectfully—even if we don't agree?
- If you don't agree with someone else in the group, we need to know that. Will you agree to speak your mind when it is your turn?
- Will you all agree that I, as facilitator, can move us along in the interest of staying on time and on task?
- Do we as group need to propose additional ground rules?

QUESTIONS

1. How are schools different today than when you went to school? How are they the same?
2. When you hear the term “21st Century education,” what does that mean to you?
3. What skills do our students need in order to be successful in the 21st century?

CLOSING

1. Can anyone summarize what we talked about tonight?
2. Did we discover any shared sense of direction or common ground?
3. What do we still need to talk about?

SET MEETING SCHEDULE

- Develop dates, times, locations for the additional three meetings.

