

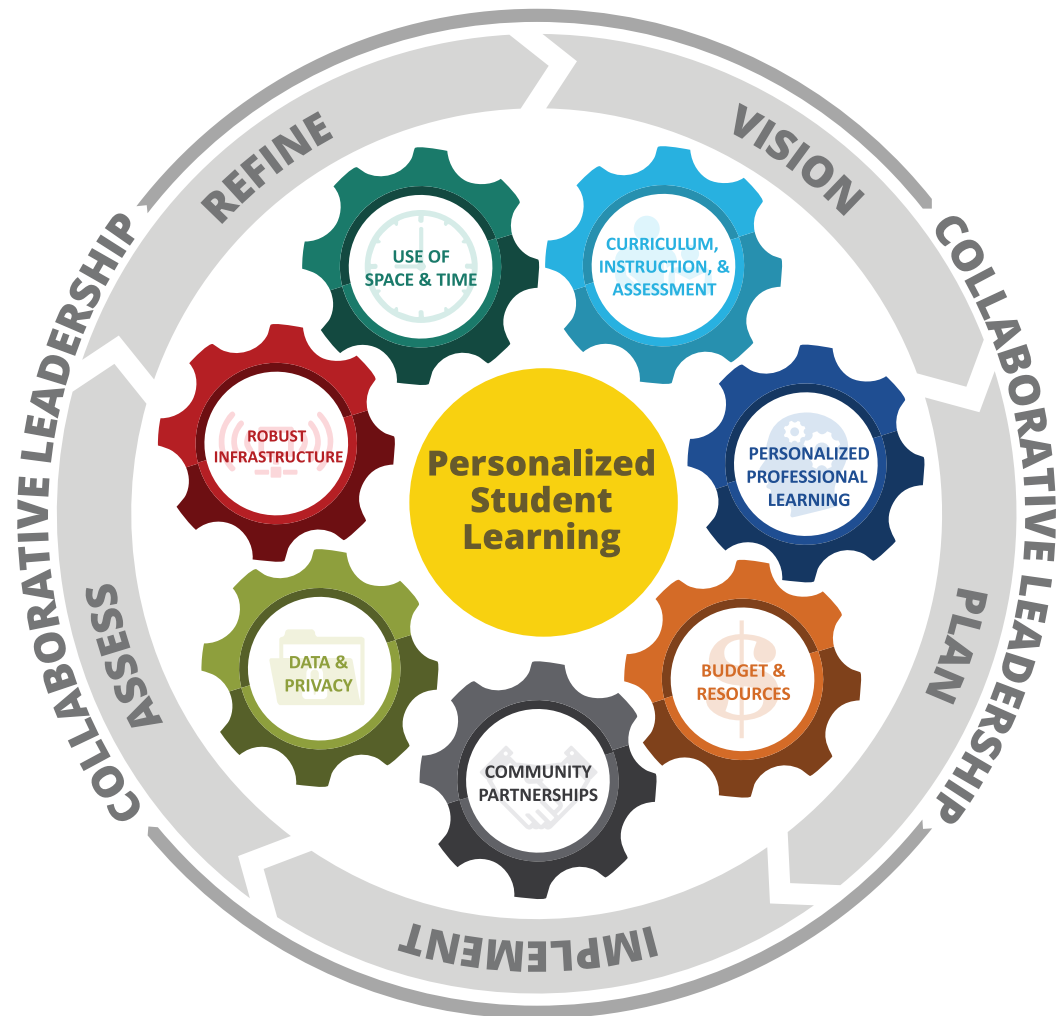
STATE LEADERS

Historically, education has been a local enterprise. This also is true with the Future Ready Schools® (FRS) initiative, where thousands of schools and districts across the country are hard at work transforming their classrooms to support digital and personalized learning. While educational decisions typically are made by local communities, there is very little a school or district can do when it comes to solving challenges of digital equity or capacity building outside their borders or across a region.

This is where states—state education agencies (SEAs) in particular—can play a major role in promoting local FRS through their regulatory and funding functions.


However, the state’s ability to impact the future readiness of its districts—especially those that are not “early adopters” of FRS—extends far beyond these core functions through its ability to share information, initiate and support partnerships and collaboration, and validate and promote effective practices.

This FRS state assessment framework is a simple, easy-to-use visual crosswalk between FRS gears and the role of an FRS state. It provides a lens through which state leaders can view and advance their goals and efforts, using the same language and set of tools as the schools and districts they support. This framework and its supporting resources are designed to empower state leaders to be change agents both within their SEAs and across the state.




Integrate the effective use of technology in all state academic standards, not just technology standards

 *Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*

- Articulate the expectation that meeting state standards requires the appropriate use of technology 
- Demonstrate the effective use of technology to support specific standards through exemplars and resources
- Provide guidance on finding and/or developing high-quality digital content

Establish a technology ecosystem to ensure every school exceeds industry-connectivity standards

 *Robust Infrastructure*

- Identify and make available resources to provide every school with access to high-speed, high-capacity internet 
- Collaborate with local and regional organizations to ensure every district and school has the IT capacity needed to support their infrastructure


Identify opportunities to reduce costs for technology procurement

 *Budget and Resources*

- Integrate technology funding across grant and budget opportunities to establish sustainable models for technology procurement and replacement 
- Hire and train SEA staff with appropriate education technology skills across all offices and functional areas
- Establish purchasing consortia or other opportunities to help districts to take advantage of procurement at scale
- Support E-rate reimbursement


Provide opportunities for educators and leaders to deepen their FRS knowledge

 *Personalized Professional Learning*

- Identify and partner with business, community, professional and parent associations, and regional education associations to support FRS efforts 
- Engage with higher education institutions to create a K-16 vision for future readiness to support workforce-readiness efforts


Establish a state culture of future readiness

 *Collaborative Leadership*

- Articulate vision for future of teaching and learning 
- Expect every school to provide effective digital learning opportunities
- Validate FRS educators and leaders who are making a difference
- Model best practices through modernizing state systems and the effective use of technology to support learning and professional development

Create opportunities for districts to explore innovative classroom models.

 *Use of Space and Time*

- Provide alternatives to seat-time that enable competency-based instructional models 
- Create flexibility to enable anywhere, anytime instructional programs


Provide useful and meaningful data to leaders and educators to support instruction and decisionmaking

 *Data and Privacy*

- Align state data systems to reduce redundancy, streamline data collection, and facilitate analysis and use of data 
- Make data a two-way street; provide meaningful data back to districts in user-friendly reports


Articulate clear expectations relating to the privacy of student data

 *Data and Privacy*

- Communicate the state's policy for its use of student data 
- Ensure all stakeholders—districts, educators, parents, and vendors—understand all applicable laws and regulations related to student data privacy

Establish a FRS coalition of interested and invested organizations and parties

 *Community Partnerships*

- Identify and partner with business, community, professional and parent associations, and regional education associations to support FRS efforts 
- Engage with higher education institutions to create a K-16 vision for future readiness to support workforce-readiness efforts