



Next Steps: Creating Guiding Principles

The development of Guiding Principles is the first step toward creating a 21st Century School at your campus. Please convene your Project Advisory Teams and begin this important work as soon as possible. For Group 1 schools, please try to have a draft of your Guiding Principles to discuss with the design team during your first meeting with them in May. The schools in Groups 2, 3 and 4 should also form your Project Advisory Teams and plan to meet to begin discussion of your Guiding Principles.

Guiding Principles will articulate your school's vision, values, hopes, and ideals to the design team. Your Guiding Principles will be used to "test" the decisions that are made throughout the design process, since every element of the building must be created to support of your vision and values.

As your Project Advisory Team creates Guiding Principles, ask yourselves the following questions:

- What does learning look like in the 21st Century?
- What role will technology play in 21st Century learning?
- What do you envision when you think of all learning spaces as workrooms for learners?
- Is supporting collaboration a way to maximize learning in 21st Century schools?
- How can a building that is made to last for decades respond to ever-changing instructional models and evolving technologies?
- What are the opportunities, challenges, assets, and hopes for your school and your community?
- What is special and unique about your educational practices that you want to preserve? What would you like to change?
- What are your expectations for learning outcomes? For example, "We expect success from all students by allowing students to work within their optimal learning styles."

Typically, five or six Guiding Principles will express the essential vision and values for your school with sufficient focus to guide the design process.

An example to help you get started:

As you read the following selected Guiding Principles for Marysville Getchell High School (a CEFPI MacConnell Award-winning project), the vision and values of the school are evident:

- Relationships at the Center—Through extensive transparency and collaborative spaces, the design blurs boundaries between teachers, students, school and community such that students feel known, valued and inspired to perform at their highest potential.
- Focused Learning— Student learning drives all decisions. Student work and achievement is immediately visible. There are no corridors or hallways. Instead, rooms are connected by learning and social spaces. Exterior connections between buildings are treated as learning opportunities. Hands-on, interest-based, collaborative experiences allow students to experience success on a daily basis.
- Community—The design facilitates community at varying scales for each SLC (small learning community). The campus also serves as a center of community through local partnership and globally through technology and sustainability.