

RETHINK YOUTH
SCHOOL CONFERENCE TOOL KIT



REIMAGINE **REDESIGN** **REBUILD** **REENGAGE**



WELCOME

TO THE [RETHINK YOUTH CONFERENCE](#)

The [Rethink Youth](#) Conference is asking district leaders, school administrators, and classroom teachers to support students by allowing the Rethink Youth Conference to be integrated into weekly lesson plans. We would ask that you create an assignment supporting student's participation and attendance at the conference and utilize the conference tools provided to engage in robust conversations following the conference.

[Support your students - invite them to register to attend the virtual conference.](#)

The [Rethink Youth](#) Conference has been developed and deployed as a learner-driven initiative focused on elevating regional youth-voice. The conference is designed to offer learners a safe space to openly discuss and process youth-identified issues affecting the learning experience.

The imperative of elevating youth voice and democratizing the classroom setting lies at the center of the [Rethink Youth](#) Conference experience. Young people have not been equipped with the language and platform necessary to deeply influence and take ownership of their educational experience.

The [Rethink Youth](#) Conference [re-imagines](#), [re-designs](#), [re-builds](#), and [re-engages](#) the systems and pedagogy that frame education, both in Kansas City and throughout the country. With the voice of our region's youth at the forefront of this movement, the [Rethink Youth](#) Conference will serve as a hub of collaboration and real-world learning while producing innovative and thought-provoking content around education.



ABOUT US

KC SOCIAL INNOVATION CENTER

EWING MARION KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION

In 2018, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation launched the [Rethink ED](#) conference to bring together business leaders, educators, parents, community leaders, high school students, and national experts to help [rethink](#) education, by collaboratively creating tools, resources, and knowledge to better support learners and their communities.

Now, KCSIC is launching [Rethink Youth](#), a virtual, [youth-fueled](#) conference dedicated to convening the region's high schoolers to collaboratively expand spaces for youth-voice by offering informative engagement, supported by their lived experiences and contemporary academic perspectives.



EWING MARION
KAUFFMAN
FOUNDATION



RETHINK YOUTH

A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 25-26, 2021

REIMAGINE REDESIGN REBUILD REENGAGE

70 high school students will lead the way to help reimagine

education from a student perspective.

Rethinking education for students.

**Electronic flyer for students -
to share and pass along. Sent
as separate attachment.**



[View the Agenda](#)



[Register for the Event](#)



[Read About Us](#)



[Keep Up with School Spotlights](#)



AGENDA

FOR THE CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

4:00PM	Conference Open and Student Highlights	
4:30PM	Break / Transition	
4:45PM	Opening Events	Option 1: Student-Led Design Thinking Session Option 2: The Role of Youth Voice in Kansas City's Regional Prosperity Panel Discussion
5:30PM	Unveiling of mural	
6:00PM	Close out Day 1	

AGENDA

FOR THE CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 (PAGE 1 OF 2)

9:00AM

Welcome and Day Overview

9:35 AM

Grouping 1*

Option 1: Fort Osage (Team A)

A Case for Fairness: Redesigning Grading Systems to Better Connect with Different Learners

Option 2: Hogan Preparatory Academy

Gamification: Adding Excitement to the Curriculum

Option 3: Raytown & Raytown South High Schools

Redefining Gifted: Understanding that All Students Are Special

10:20 AM

Break / Transition

10:35 AM

Grouping 2*

Option 1: Crossroads Preparatory Academy

Real World Learning: Connecting the Classroom to the World Outside

Option 2: Fort Osage (Team B)

Time for Change: Searching for Homework Alternatives

Option 3: De La Salle Education Center

Get to Know Me - A Case for Teachers Better Connecting with Students

Option 3: Northeast High School

Ultimate Connection - Can You Teach Me If You Don't Look Like Me

AGENDA

FOR THE CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 (PAGE 2 OF 2)

11:20 AM	Break / Transition	
11:35 AM	Grouping 3*	<p>Option 1: East High School <i>Urban Farming: Strategies for Combating Food Insecurity in Schools</i></p> <p>Option 2: Liberty High School <i>Learning Styles: Creating an Environment For Everyone</i></p> <p>Option 3: Liberty North High School <i>Exploring Post-Secondary Pathways Early. We Don't Have to Wait.</i></p>
12:20 PM	Break / Transition	
12:30PM	Closing Remarks and Summation	
1:00PM	Conference Wrap	

*Session descriptions can be found on the next pages.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

TOPICS AND DESCRIPTIONS

A Case for Fairness: Redesigning Grading Systems to Better Connect with Different Learners

Fort Osage (Team A)

- Students will address current grading systems in place. The facilitators will make a case for how grading does not always represent what students have learned. The team believes that grades should be based on different student learning styles. Students will share alternatives to a more improved grading system, that has a better impact on learning.

It is Time to Make a Change: Searching for an Alternative to Homework

Fort Osage (Team B)

- Students will address the current homework structure in place. They are required to spend time outside of class on what they believe to be busywork. Homework has become outdated and lost its effect on student learning. Students will explore alternatives to homework and share different methods that contribute to mastery of what they are learning in the classroom.

Real-World-Learning: Connecting the Classroom to the World Outside

Crossroads Preparatory Academy

- Students will explore what Real World Learning is and discuss the benefits of implementing it in schools. They will include the effect it has on critical thinking, decision making, and life skills. Exploring these skills early on will give students an experience that is applicable to more opportunities. Schools need to better prepare students for the outside world, and help students find their place in the world beyond school.

Get to Know Me: A Case for Teachers Better Connecting with Students

De La Salle Education Center

- Students spend a lot of time in schools, an average of 6 hours a day. It is important for teachers to build connections with their students beyond handing out assignments. Students will explore the different ways that teachers can develop stronger connections with their students. They will also discuss the effect that these connections have on student success and performance in schools.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

TOPICS AND DESCRIPTIONS

Urban Farming: Strategies for Combating Food Insecurities in Schools

East High School

- The session will focus on the effects food insecurities have on student achievement. The team asserts that students with better access to food perform better in school. The session will look at strategies for addressing food insecurities in high school through hydroponic farming and urban farming and why it should be introduced into schools.

Gamification: Adding Excitement to the Curriculum

Hogan Preparatory Academy

- The session will focus on the benefits associated with gamifying student engagement. The team believes that the gamification of the current curriculum will increase student learning by making learning more enjoyable. In addition, gamifying engagement will allow us to connect more with the way different students learn.

A Case for Learning Styles: Creating an Environment Where Everyone Feels Comfortable, Accepted, and Respected

Liberty High School

- The session will look at how learning styles are acknowledged, but not taken into account during instruction. Students argue that the current curriculum does not address the needs of all learners. The team asserts that this type of exclusion creates an uncomfortable environment for some students which can have a negative affect on student achievement.

Exploring Post-Secondary Pathways Early. We Don't Have to Wait.

Liberty North High School

- The session looks at the benefits of starting Real World Learning based instruction during their initial year in high school. The primary case of this session is that schools wait too before students are allowed to use RWL to explore possible post-secondary options.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

TOPICS AND DESCRIPTIONS

Ultimate Connection: Can You Teach Me if You Don't Look Like Me?

Northeast High School

- The session will explore the benefits associated with shared racial identities between teachers and students. Students will discuss the pros and cons of racial connectedness between teachers and students and attempt to find the connection between student performance and same race educators.

Redefining Gifted: Understanding that All Students are Special

Raytown & Raytown South High Schools

- The session will focus on expanding the criteria for gifted classification in high school. Current gifted models exclude students who are not gifted in ways traditionally seen as academic. The team asserts that schools should recognize students who are on technical, artistic, and/or military tracts and pathways. The team will offer alternative structures to the current gifted models being used today.

THANK YOU

FROM THE YOUTH STEERING COMMITTEE

On behalf of all the 90 students working across 9 regional high schools, we would like to thank you for participating in for the first-ever [Rethink Youth Conference](#).

We appreciate all your consideration for our diverse ideas and thoughts regarding student-voice and advocacy in education.

We know that your support does not end here. Hopefully, this conference has caused you to [rethink](#) the ways in which you see education, and what education can be. Not just for today, but for the future as well.

- [Rethink Youth Steering Committee](#)

SUPPORTING ARTICLES

- [Young people in decision making](#)
- [What does Youth voice look in action?](#)
- [Adults can't do it alone](#)
- [How can teachers nurture meaningful student agency?](#)
- [Student voice influences leading educators exemplar](#)



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