Reimagining High School in Tulsa Public Schools

January 4, 2018
What if....

high school was very different?
How is Tulsa going to reimagine high school?
Engage

Discover

Design
Reimagining High School

Late Winter 2018
- Raise broad awareness
- Inventory current system
- Engage our experts: educators, community, and youth
- Develop momentum
- Local and national site visits

Summer - Early Winter 2018
- School communities opt-in and cast teams
- Schools engage in design process
- Local and national site visits
- Schools develop model prototypes
- System prepares for pilot sites

Engage

Late Winter - Mid-Summer 2018
- Learn from our community
- Develop a vision
- Draft a blueprint and design parameters
- Prepare the system to support innovation
- Local and national site visits

Discover

Design

Pilot

Winter 2018 - June 2019
- Schools test prototypes
- Collect feedback and improve
- Assess readiness and commitment for pilot
- Select and support two pilot sites
What have we learned so far?
Respect matters: from and toward adults and peers.

“Mrs. Hall is my favorite because she treats everyone like young adults. She even treats students who are acting bad with respect. That is how we know she is for real. And it is how she brings the best out in students.”

-- 12th student

Relationships with adults are vital.

“Mrs. Walker is really good. She is fun and she gives good advice. She feels like my aunt or just family. I think it is because she is always there for me. And I can trust her to give it to me straight.”

-- 8th grade student
Real choice is motivating.

“I love going to this school. There are so many choices that I didn’t have in my last school. I can take pre-AP classes. It is the classes and the teachers, together, that make the opportunities real.”

-- 8th grade student

Adult life is on their mind.

“I want to be the first one to graduate from college so that I can make enough money for my family. I never want to have to tell my kids that we have to choose between food and electricity.”

-- 10th grade student