



Signature National Partners:

- AASA, the School Superintendent's Association
- AIR
- National Urban League

A mobilization endeavor focused on bringing coherence to local efforts to rebuild and re-imagine a community's learning ecosystem.

Goal:

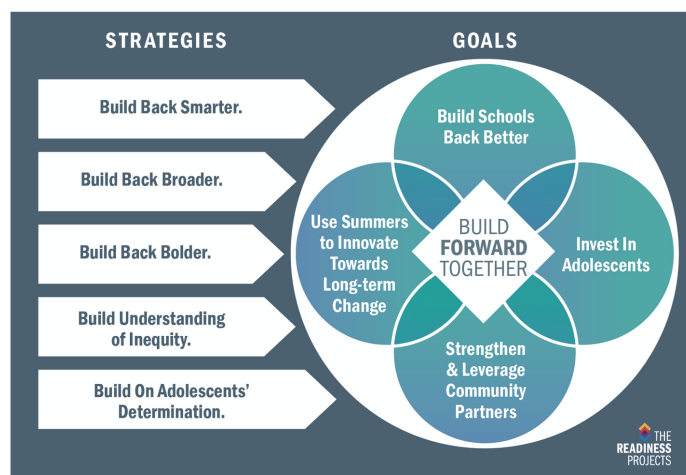
Build Forward Together challenges and supports school districts and community partners to create equitable learning and development ecosystems that unleash the potential of all learners, recognize the power of all committed adults, and optimize all learning settings and approaches.

To accomplish this, The Readiness Projects team and Build Forward Together Partners work alongside communities to find, test, and curate ideas, tools, and examples that inspire local leaders to:

- **Think and talk differently about the science of learning and development and reimagined learning and development.**
- **See and hear differently to fully center youth and families, understanding needs and the resources and capacities that families, community organizations and youth themselves bring.**
- **Act and react differently to work smarter, acknowledging the inefficiencies and inequities created when do not recognize the interdependence of systems.**
- **Coordinate differently to leverage communities coordination infrastructures in service of these efforts.**

Build Forward Together capitalizes on school leaders commitment to build schools back better. But what is better? The number of issues and innovations schools have tackled over the past year makes it impossible to go back to normal. Conversations with school and community leaders have surfaced three additional goals that not only complement but can shape schools build back better efforts.

Toward Equitable Learning and Development Ecosystems



Local Champions:

- The Opportunity Project, Tulsa, OK (Co-chair)
- Boys & Girls Club Clubs of Metro Richmond, VA (Co-chair)
- Alhambra Unified School District, CA
- Chicago Urban League & Communities in Schools Chicago, IL
- Detroit Urban League & Youth Development Resource Center, MI
- Greater Rochester Summer Learning, NY
- The Learning Alliance, Vero Beach, FL
- Marshalltown CSD, IA
- Mid-Iowa Community Action, IA
- Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board, Youthprise & Twin Cities Urban League, MN
- Nashville After Zone Alliance, TN
- New Orleans Children & Youth Planning Board, LA
- Nebraska Urban League, NE
- Palm Beach County Youth Services & Prime Time Palm Beach County, FL
- Providence After School Alliance, RI
- SAU 13, NH
- Shenango Valley Urban League, PA
- Spartanburg Academic Movement, SC
- Stanfield Elementary District, AZ
- Thompson Island Outward Bound, Boston, MA
- United Way of Story County, IA



Every community has leaders who are making one of these goals a priority. Build Forward Together supports them working together by encouraging them to embrace common strategies, no matter what their starting point.

BFT Strategies:

Build Back Smarter— Acknowledge learners’ losses while affirming learning ability. Optimize learning environments while prioritizing reconnection.

Build Back Broader—Support complementary learning delivery systems and modalities. Invest in program-level staff and city-level coordinating structures.

Build Back Bolder—Focus on how, why, and with whom learning happens. Respect and diversify learners’ experiences and contexts and adults’ expertise and power.

Build Understanding of Inequity— Equity is the goal, but inequity is the reality. Acknowledging skepticism, take time to get baseline data right in order to truly cover all bases.

Build on Adolescents’ Determination—Embrace adolescent risk taking and leverage the brain science. Create and support alternative success pathways for all adolescents to be competent, connected, confident contributors.

Why we are taking this on:

The scope and significance of the opportunities to disrupt the status quo have increased since March 2020. School leaders know they need to build back better. School and community leaders see the need to build forward together, partnering with youth, families and community organizations in different, deeper ways. And policy makers at all levels are seeing the risks associated with the likelihood that, when the dust settles, teens will have been trying to maintain relationships, routines, and rigorous instruction virtually for more than a year.

To learn more about The Readiness Projects and Build Forward Together, visit: forumfyi.org/the-readiness-projects/