

## Who is Dysart Unified School District?

Dysart Unified School District grew from 7,000 students in 2001 to approximately 25,000 in 2015. During that time of rapid enrollment growth the district expanded its facilities, improved its educational programs and made gains on educational measures of student success. (See <https://video.dysart.org/Videos/Video.aspx?v=268>) In the most recent Arizona Accountability Measure reported by the state Department of Education,, Dysart earned an “A”.

## Dysart Innovating For Student Success

Through a collaborative planning process, which has been in place since 2007, the Dysart District developed a strategic plan that provides a clear focus, helps the community have ownership in the work being done, and helps build a supportive and collaborative culture in the district. The strategic plan is a contract with the community as well as our roadmap to success. The planning process insures the plan represents the voices of all district stakeholders and meets the needs of the community of learners served. Each step builds on the other and expands opportunities for collaboration with the goal being a strategic plan that is a living document that guides our work as a district.

Over the past decade Dysart has utilized a focused planning process to identify non-negotiable goals that build on the successes and structures of accomplished goals. The focus has been on preparing students for the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century. This is critical since technology and the flow of information is so rapidly transforming how we conduct business in our professional and personal lives.

## Dysart’s Examples of Excellence



Examples of programs/initiatives in place in Dysart include:

**Website: *Profile of a Dysart Graduate: Prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

<https://www.dysart.org/Sites/Default.aspx?pgID=302>

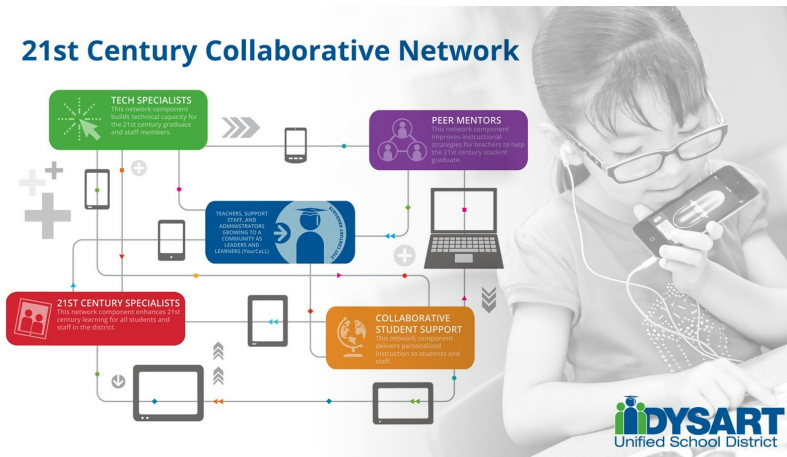
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[www.dysart.org](http://www.dysart.org)

**Program Website: *Dysart's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Collaborative Network (2014)***

Created by: Dysart Unified School District

### 21st Century Collaborative Network



<https://www.dysart.org/sites/default.aspx?pgid=1827>

### High School Signature Programs, iSchool and Middle Level Academies

Learning pathways are designed to personalize education, provide real life application and embrace academic and work skills and provide 24/7 access to learning. See

<https://www.dysart.org/sites/default.aspx?pgid=1752>

<https://www.dysart.org/sites/default.aspx?siteid=36>

**Dysart's Move on When Ready option-**As part of Dysart's participation in the Arizona Move On When Ready initiative, students have an opportunity to demonstrate foundational college and career readiness by taking a series of curriculum-based exams approved at the state level. These rigorous exams allow students to prove in-depth learning in a variety of ways by demonstrating their skills in writing, analysis, and problem-solving. Based on a student's exam performance, the student can fulfill all of the requirements to qualify for a Dysart Grand Canyon High School Credential Diploma. This diploma signals that a student is ready to do college-level work without remediation. This opens up a variety of education and career pathways for the student. See <https://www.dysart.org/Sites/Default.aspx?pgid=536>

**Innovation Ambassadors-** Each school site has an Innovation Ambassador and New Century Learning committee to support 21st Century Learning with technology integration using frameworks such as the SAMR Model and the 4C's (Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Critical Thinking). These individuals are classroom teachers who accept these technology leadership roles.

<https://video.dysart.org/Videos/Video.aspx?v=273>

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Collaborative-** Through the 21st Century Collaborative Network, Dysart Unified School District has created a community of 21st century learners and leaders,

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integrating the critical skills needed for all stakeholders to provide expanded opportunities and options for 21st century learning.

<https://www.dysart.org/Sites/Default.aspx?pgID=1827>

**iPALS** (I Plan, I Assess, I Learn, I Share)-Dysart Unified School District created an integrated solution that leverages the power of technology to provide information available 24/7. This online tool includes: a collaborative workspace for curriculum; an assessment data warehouse; and centralized professional development and instructional resources. The tool breaks down the barriers between access and use of information.

<https://calendar.dysart.org/ipal/IPALusersmanual.pdf>

<https://video.dysart.org/videos/Video.aspx?v=406>

### **B.Y.O.D.**

Dysart has set procedures in place to support technology literacy, digital citizenship, and information fluency with the use of various devices and online productivity tools and resources for students and staff. Through a combination of district provided resources and a robust B.Y.O.D initiative, technology helps transform learning in Dysart versus being a mandate to use devices to say the district utilizes technology. See

<https://www.dysart.org/Sites/Default.aspx?pgid=209>

### **Technology Purchasing Processes**

In the Dysart Unified School District, we purchase technology software and hardware that supports student learning based on Technology Integration Plans (TIPs). See

<https://sites.google.com/a/dysart.org/technology-purchasing/home>.

## **National Recognitions**

The strategic work being done by the Dysart Unified School District has been recognized at a national level and utilized as an exemplar in this area. The following are examples:

***Profile: Dysart Unified School District: How One School District Used Collaborative Planning to Improve Outcomes for All Students (2013)***

Produced by: Alliance for Excellent Education

<http://all4ed.org/reports-factsheets/dysart-unified-school-district-how-one-school-district-used-collaborative-planning-to-improve-outcomes-for-all-students>

***Article: Leaders To Learn From: AZ Leader Uses Technology to Personalize Learning (2014)***

Published by: Education Week

<http://leaders.edweek.org/leaders-to-learn-from-2014-report>

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### **Future Ready Summit**

On November 19th, 2014, 100 K-12 superintendents and academic leaders were invited to attend the Future Ready Summit at the White House in Washington, DC. This summit brought together the strongest academic leaders in technology to move the United States of America forward in technology access and usage.

<http://seymoureducate.wordpress.com/2014/11/19/future-ready-summit-in-washington-dc>

### **Future Ready Regional Summit**

On April 13 and 14, 2015, Dysart Unified School District has been asked by the Alliance for Excellent Education, the U.S. Department of Education and the LEAD Commission to assist in hosting a Future Ready Regional Summit in Phoenix, AZ.

Future Ready Regional Summits focus on a comprehensive set of issues that drive student learning. These issues include:

- ✓ curriculum, instruction, and assessment;
- ✓ professional learning;
- ✓ technology, networks, and hardware;
- ✓ budget and resources;
- ✓ data and privacy;
- ✓ use of time; and
- ✓ community partnerships.

Trained facilitators skilled at using technology and digital learning effectively, many of them initiative partners, lead the regional summits. The summits highlight experiences of districts in each region and offer district leaders tangible ways to build capacity among their teams and throughout their districts. Each team will leave with a concrete action plan for creating a Future Ready school district. The summits also encourage cross-district collaboration as participants join an active network of regional experts and other district leaders committed to sharing information and lessons learned.

<http://futurereadyschools.org/domain/15>

### **Project 24 Team of Experts**

The Alliance has assembled a team of nationally recognized leaders who have demonstrated records of success in their fields. Each chosen expert effectively used technology to help advance the goals of college and career readiness. The experts support the work of Project 24 as they lead and share through blogs, webinars, resources, and rich discussions.

<http://all4ed.schoolwires.net/Page/170>

### **AASA Digital Consortium 2014-ongoing**

AASA invited twenty superintendents recognized as educational leaders in integrating technology into the learning process to positively impact student achievement to attend a digital

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Consortium. The purpose of the consortium is to provide school administrators with insight into successful models of best practices using digital media.

<http://www.aasa.org/content.aspx?id=35758>

***Webinar: Using Data What Might Surprise You (2013)***

Produced by: Alliance for Excellent Education

<http://all4ed.org/webinar/using-data-heres-what-might-surprise-you>

***Webinar: Planning for Progress in Digital Learning: Introduction to the Use of Time (2013)***

Produced by: Alliance for Excellent Education

<http://all4ed.org/webinar-event/planning-for-progress-in-digital-learning-introduction-to-the-use-of-time>

***Webinar: Show Me the Money: Making the Leap to Digital Learning Without Going Broke***

Produced by: Alliance for Excellent Education

<http://all4ed.org/webinar-event/show-me-the-money-making-the-leap-to-digital-learning-without-going-broke>

***Webinar: 4C's Rubrics - How schools are implementing rubrics for critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity (2014)***

Produced by: EdLeader21

<http://www.edleader21.com/index.php?pg=33&id=28>

***Webinar: Capacity Building Through a Twenty-First Century Collaborative Network (2014)***

Produced by: Alliance for Excellent Education

<http://all4ed.org/webinar-event/dec-16-2014>

**Dysart Unified School District site of 2012 NSBA Technology and Learning Site Visit**

<https://video.dysart.org/videos/Video.aspx?v=276>

**Dysart Unified School District site of 2013 Technology and Learning Site Visit by state of Wyoming Educators**

<https://www.dysart.org/Sites/Default.aspx?pgID=1772>

**Additional Awards and Recognitions**

<https://www.dysart.org/Sites/Default.aspx?pgID=515>

**State and National Engagements:**

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Dysart Unified School District has also been invited to present on many of the initiatives that support creating a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment for teacher and student leaders and learners. For example:

**NSBA National Conference, April 5-7, 2014, *Innovative Solution for Data Driven Decision Making and***

***Mobile Learning: The Intersection of Policy and Practice***

<https://www.dysart.org/sites/default.aspx?pgID=1820>

**Ed Leader21 National Conference, October, 2014, *21st Century Collaborative Network***

<https://www.dysart.org/Sites/Default.aspx?pgID=4411>

**AASA National Conference, February, 2014, *Building Capacity by Building a Community of Leaders and Learners***

**ASBA-ASA Annual Conference, December 12, 2014, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Collaborative Network***

<https://www.dysart.org/Sites/Default.aspx?pgID=4444>

**Learning Forward National Conference, December, 2013, *Providing Leadership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Districts***

**EdLeader21 - 4C's Performance Assessment National Working Group**

The purpose of this collaborative group is to measure authentic student work in the areas of communication and critical thinking skills aligned to the standards of social studies and science.