

Mobilize Your Community Playlist Guide

Getting Started

Welcome to the Mobilize Your Community Playlist! We built it to provide education change agents with resources to convene communities and actualize their visions of What School Could Be. This Playlist appears first because finding support is the foundation for success and is more important than ever in this time of crisis. We know that our system is broken. The pandemic is fraught with challenges, but it also provides opportunity to embrace new mindsets and practices. So we ask, “Why not now?”

Your desire to innovate brought you here, but innovation doesn’t happen in a vacuum. It can be overwhelming and unproductive to advocate for improvements on your own. We’re stronger together. This series of videos (“Plays”) will give you:

- Context to strengthen your desire for change
- Suggestions to help focus your approach and succeed
- Tools to build support and enthusiasm among colleagues and the outside community, and
- Plans for identifying the skills and mindsets that our students need to succeed (your community’s North Star), and for exploring what is possible

Navigating this Playlist

The Plays in this Playlist are arranged in a suggested path that has proven successful many times over, and so we recommend you view them in the order presented. That said, each Play stands on its own. Explore what is here, and we’re confident that you will find something of value, wherever you are along the journey.

This Guide exists to help you chart your own path. To help, we’ve included a brief description of each of the Mobilize Your Community Plays below, along with suggestions for how to use them. As you explore the Playlist and the individual pages where Plays reside, you’ll find more details and supports.

The Plays

- 1) [Committee of Ten](#). Ready to find some supportive colleagues and begin reimagining things? Here’s your starting place. Thousands of education change agents have told us that unless you have a supportive team, your efforts may fail. The Committee of Ten Play provides you with proven tactics to harness existing successes and enlist teachers, administrators, students, and community members in your work.
- 2) [Build Momentum](#). We’re big believers in choice, so we built choice into our Playlist! This Play collects thought-provoking videos to use whenever you want to prompt reflection about what is needed and what is possible. Choose a few to show at faculty,

department, or PLC meetings to generate discussion and enthusiasm for new projects among school personnel. Need to convince an administrator to let you try something new? A colleague to work with you? One of these videos might help. Later, when you are ready to address a larger community outside the school, you might choose to include a few with our “Option B” collection in the Convene Your Community Play described below.

- a) [Sir Ken Robinson’s TED Talk](#) - Do schools kill creativity? In the most-watched TED Talk of all time, Sir Ken argues for reimagining our education system to embrace the creativity and gifts of all children. With passion, logic, and humor, he lays the foundation for the work we must do.
- b) [Play, Passion, Purpose: Tony Wagner at TEDx NYED](#). Why must our schools change, and how do we begin? In this Play, leading education change agent Tony Wagner explains why the culture of schooling is radically at odds with the culture of learning that produces innovators. He makes the case for radically rethinking schools to infuse play, passion, and purpose into education. Recorded during the last recession, this presentation speaks powerfully to our current environment. So why not change, and why not now?
- c) [Ted Dintersmith’s TEDx Talk](#) - What should schools be? In this video, Ted shares our vision for reimagining schools to prepare kids for life, not standardized tests, and for valuing and trusting teachers to lead the way.
- d) [The Future of Work](#) - What skills and mindsets matter most for our students’ futures, as accelerating advances in technology eliminate jobs at a furious pace?
- e) [The Future of Civic Engagement](#) - How will we teach kids to see through the misinformation and manipulation that technology and social media foster?
- f) [MIT Graduation Video](#) - How many MIT graduates does it take to light a bulb? This video underscores the value of hands-on learning, and how many who thrive in an academic world have actually learned so little about how the world actually operates.
- g) [What Teachers Value](#) - What do teachers need? How about trust, autonomy, and respect? National Teachers Hall of Fame inductees share their hopes for change.
- h) [What Students Need](#) - What challenges do teachers face in meeting students’ needs? National Teachers Hall of Fame inductees get specific, and emotional, about their work.
- i) [No Child Left Behind?](#) - Is the current system working? Inductees to the National Teachers Hall of Fame share their frustrations with high-stakes testing and the damage it has done to students and the teaching profession.
- j) [What is School For?](#) - Are we teaching students what they want and need to learn? Hear a young person’s take on schools today. Note: This can be difficult for some teachers to hear. If you use this resource with teachers, take time to explain its source and viewpoint.
- k) [Essential Skills](#) - What do our students need to know? Here are some thoughts as you begin identifying relevant skills and mindsets.

- l) [Most Likely to Succeed](#) - How well are we preparing students for their futures? This video provides highlights from the award-winning documentary and options for further screenings in “Convene Your Community,” below.
- 3) [What School Could Be Book Study](#). Ted spent a year traveling to every state, searching for pockets of innovation within our schools and listening carefully to teachers’ views. What he found was inspiring. He collected his observations in *What School Could Be*, a book that fuels reflection and action in educator groups across the country. Whether a small group of teachers, a grade level or department, a school, a community group, or an entire district, the group that convenes for a book study will be energized and inspired to work together to begin reimagining learning. This Play shares the materials needed to organize your own book study.
- 4) [Convene Your Community](#). Once you’ve gathered and energized your core group, it’s time to begin the real work of identifying the skills and mindsets our students need to be successful. Education must be about their futures, not our pasts, and it must be shaped with the input of the entire community.

This Play provides two different pathways for bringing your community together to identify what students need to succeed and to imagine possibilities for change. These options have proven successful time and again, in all locations, including the virtual environment caused by the pandemic. The first option employs a full-length, community viewing of the acclaimed film *Most Likely to Succeed*. A second option includes a brief “thesis” of the film, with additional videos to spark and guide your community’s discussions. We provide you with free guides and the materials you need for a successful event that will jump-start creative innovation in your schools.

- 5) [Essential Skills & Mindsets](#). We must move away from content-focused education systems and toward the skills and character traits needed for careers and citizenship in the 21st century. This Play identifies essential skills and mindsets and argues for shifting our education to foster them. Communities may use this video to spark discussion about the qualities they want to see in their graduates and to prepare for evaluating their existing systems. For the Play, we feature the great work of EdLeader21 and Battelle for Kids, with their Portrait of a Graduate resources.
- 6) [Shadow a Student](#). You’ve convened your community and identified the skills and mindsets your students need for their futures. Now what? The first step is to evaluate how well your school is already addressing these goals. The best way to do that? Shadow a student for a day. Teachers and administrators already know how powerful shadowing a student can be and use this tool to inform and improve their practice. We’ve included the Shadow a Student Play here in the progression because we believe that shadowing is especially powerful when it occurs shortly after a group discussion about desired skills and mindsets. Then, recruit a team (quite possibly your “Committee of Ten”) to participate -- with each person shadowing a different student, looking for the

bright spots where student's experience helps develop Portrait-of-a-Graduate competency. Looking for bright spots puts this in a positive light, and identifies current school strengths you can build on. And be sure to shadow students across a range of grades, interests, and backgrounds. And yes, you can shadow students on a virtual school day.

- 7) [Remake Learning](#). Every transformation benefits from celebrating successes and considering even more possibilities for growth. That's why we've chosen to end this series with our Remake Learning Play. It showcases two different pathways for connecting your community with students to celebrate the creative, innovative learning opportunities you're building. We show you how to set up local Remake Learning events at schools, businesses, or organizations. Want to dream even bigger? What about a regional Remake Learning festival? The materials to get you started are here.

The Promise

Thank you for your vision and your mission. We believe in you. We believe in the urgency of this work and in your desire and ability to innovate and make change happen. You know that life-ready is not an outcome on a standardized test. It is what happens when we prioritize student agency, voice, creativity, and engagement. We are here to support your efforts to prepare your students for their futures, not our past. We want to hear from you. Contact us at WeCare@whatschoolcouldbe.org.