Collaborative “Blue Sky” Activity

Purpose: To think creatively about what “could be” in our district (and in our schools*). Encourage participants to think as if anything were possible—to ignore any current barriers (perceived or real). This might also start some productive thinking about possible strengths within our district and schools, barriers to our goal of increased achievement, and potential activities or strategies we may want to explore further.

Materials: Enough copies of this worksheet for each participant, chart paper, tape, markers

Directions: 1. Respond to the statement below and write down your best ideas.

2. Discuss your ideas with others (in pairs or small groups).

3. Share out the ideas of the small group or pairs with the whole group and record on chart paper. An option is to have the small group list their responses and give to the facilitator to record on chart paper for the total group.

4. Review what is on the chart paper and identify themes or categories (e.g., curricular changes, safety issues, professional development opportunities, and so on).

5. Debrief and discuss the results. Keep these notes handy, type them up or keep the charts posted. You should refer to them throughout your planning effort.

If I could re-design our district in ways that could make a positive difference for all our students’ learning, here’s what I think we should—

KEEP doing—

STOP doing—

START doing—

[* A parallel activity could be accomplished with the leadership or planning team representatives from individual schools.*]