

2015 Presentation Topics
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The presentation topics below can be tailored to meet the needs of the audience. They can also be combined for half-day and full-day presentations.

Addressing Today's Challenges within the Context of Emerging Trends

Today's challenges are so overwhelming that they have consumed the agenda of most schools. Equally as important, but often overlooked due to the magnitude of today's pressures, are a series of emerging trends that will profoundly impact the future of our students, schools, and education. Bill Daggett will describe these emerging trends and how we need to address today's challenges within their context.

Creating Future-Focused Schools

Today's students need to be prepared for their future. Living in a rapidly evolving global economy, students need to be able to think at higher levels, employ strong literacy and analytical skills, and solve problems in unpredictable situations. There is currently a gap between what students need and what our schools provide. To be prepared for success in today's increasingly technology-focused and information-based society, ALL students need a rigorous learning experience. Dr. Daggett will describe how the nation's most rapidly improving schools have created a culture to support, define, and implement a rigorous learning experience for ALL students.

A Systems Approach to Innovative Best Practices

Improving student performance requires more than a series of random acts of innovative best practices – it requires a systemwide approach that nurtures and ties these practices together. Dr. Daggett will share how the nation's most rapidly improving schools created a classroom-to-boardroom approach to school improvement and provide a series of best practices applied at the organizational leadership, instructional leadership, and teaching levels.

Culture Trumps Strategy

Successful schools and districts create a culture that is focused on the future, rather than anchored in the past. To create that culture, all stakeholders – from the school board to the community – must have a clear understanding of what our students will need to know and be able to do in the wake of the emerging trends that will impact the workplace, home, and society. Dr. Daggett will describe these emerging trends and how to effectively communicate them to teachers, administrators, board members, parents, community members, and students.

Preparing for the Challenges and Opportunities of the Common Core State Standards

Fueled by moving to the Common Core State Standards and, more importantly, new assessments tied to these standards, schools must make a fundamental shift in both what is taught and how it will be taught. Students will be assessed on standards that are far more rigorous and much more applied than in the past; therefore teachers will need to match their instruction to those higher levels of rigor and relevance. Dr. Daggett will lay out why these changes are being made, the impact they will have on curriculum and instruction, and ways that the nation's most rapidly improving schools develop and use a blueprint to meet the challenges successfully.

Preparing Students to be College and Career Ready

To successfully meet the growing demand to make all students college and career ready, K-12 educators must overcome a series of challenges. Schools will be required to make a fundamental shift in both what is taught and how it will be taught. Students will be assessed on standards that are far more rigorous and much more applied than in the past; therefore, teachers will need to match their instruction to those higher levels of rigor and relevance. Dr. Daggett will lay out why these changes are being made, the impact they will have on curriculum and instruction, and ways that the nation's most rapidly improving schools have developed and used a blueprint to meet these challenges successfully.

Rigor and Relevance for ALL Students

Highly successful schools have academically rigorous curricula that also incorporate real-world relevance. These schools understand that rigor, while essential, is not adequate to lead all students to high levels of achievement. Dr. Daggett will provide an in-depth look at the Rigor/Relevance Framework[®], created by the International Center for Leadership in Education, a cornerstone of curriculum and instruction throughout the country and abroad. Two additional Rs, which are also critical to maximizing student success, will be described: relationships between student and teacher, student and student, and teacher and teacher, and opportunities for reflective thought on what is being taught and learned.

CTE at a Crossroads

For both academic education and career and technical education, the next few years will be “the best of times” or “the worst of times.” The last decade has presented great challenges for all educators, brought about first by *No Child Left Behind* and now by *Race to the Top*, coupled with dramatic changes in the workplace. Dr. Daggett will describe how outstanding programs have responded to the challenges by well-preparing students for academic and workplace success by making CTE and academic education a seamless system.

Literacy Across the Curriculum

Both the workplace and postsecondary education are demanding higher levels of literacy. This reality is behind the higher expectations that underpin the Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Assessments. Meeting these demands means literacy must become a bell-to-bell responsibility of all educators. Dr. Daggett will describe the nation's most rapidly improving schools' best practices for driving literacy across the curriculum.