

Defining Educational Success

Children and Young People - Discussion Prompts

Context

Defining Educational Success is a piece of work responding to Recommendation 1 of the Independent Education Review, which identified the need to strengthen how educational success is described, measured, and communicated. Current narratives about success in education are often narrow and do not always resonate with students or families or reflect the full value of education.

This work will develop a definition of educational success—one that reflects the experiences, aspirations, and diverse pathways of all learners. The definition will be supported by an action plan that identifies the changes needed across the system to better set learners up for success.

Central to this work is hearing directly from children and young people, families, staff and stakeholders about what success means to them and how we can help our learners to be successful.

Engagement will take place until **19 June**. For questions or support, you can [email the team](#).

Contributing to the work

The discussion prompts can be used to seek input in any format suitable for your context. That might be:

- Small group discussions
- 1:1 discussions
- Facilitated activities

The prompts can be adapted as required. However, we ask that the discussion focuses on three core questions:

1. What does success in education look like now?
2. What should success in education look like in the future?
3. What needs to change to support success?

The discussion must also test the following definition of educational success:

**Education helps me grow and gives me hope for my future.
I'm connected, capable, and confident – and ready for what's next.**

Please record any findings using the collection sheet provided.

Scan and return any completed sheets by email to the project team OR use the QR code or [link](#).



Discussion prompts

1. What does success in education look like now?

- When you think of a student doing really well at school, what comes to mind?
- What does your school use to show you are doing well – things like reports, grades, awards, behaviour, or attendance?
- What other things tell you that you are learning well or doing well at school?
- What are you most proud of about your own learning right now?
- What things about you or your learning do you feel are not noticed or valued enough at school?
- Do you think all students have an equal chance to be seen as successful at school? Why or why not?

2. What should educational success look like for our children in the future?

- If school was working perfectly, what would success look like for you?
- When you finish school, what are the most important things you hope to have learned or experienced?
- What kind of person do you want to grow into? How could school help with that?
- How important are these things to you:
 - confidence and wellbeing?
 - curiosity and love of learning?
 - problem-solving and creativity?
 - kindness and responsibility?
 - friendships and connections?
- The world is changing really fast – how do you think school should help prepare you for that?

3. What needs to change to support children's success?

- What gets in the way of you enjoying learning at school?
- How could schools do a better job of showing how much you have grown, not just your grades or test results?
- What would really helpful feedback about your learning look like? What would you want to know about how you're going?
- If you could change one thing to make school better for you, what would it be?

4. Testing a definition of educational success

- How well do you think this description captures what success in education should mean? Does it sound right to you?
- Why do you say that?

Data Recording Template

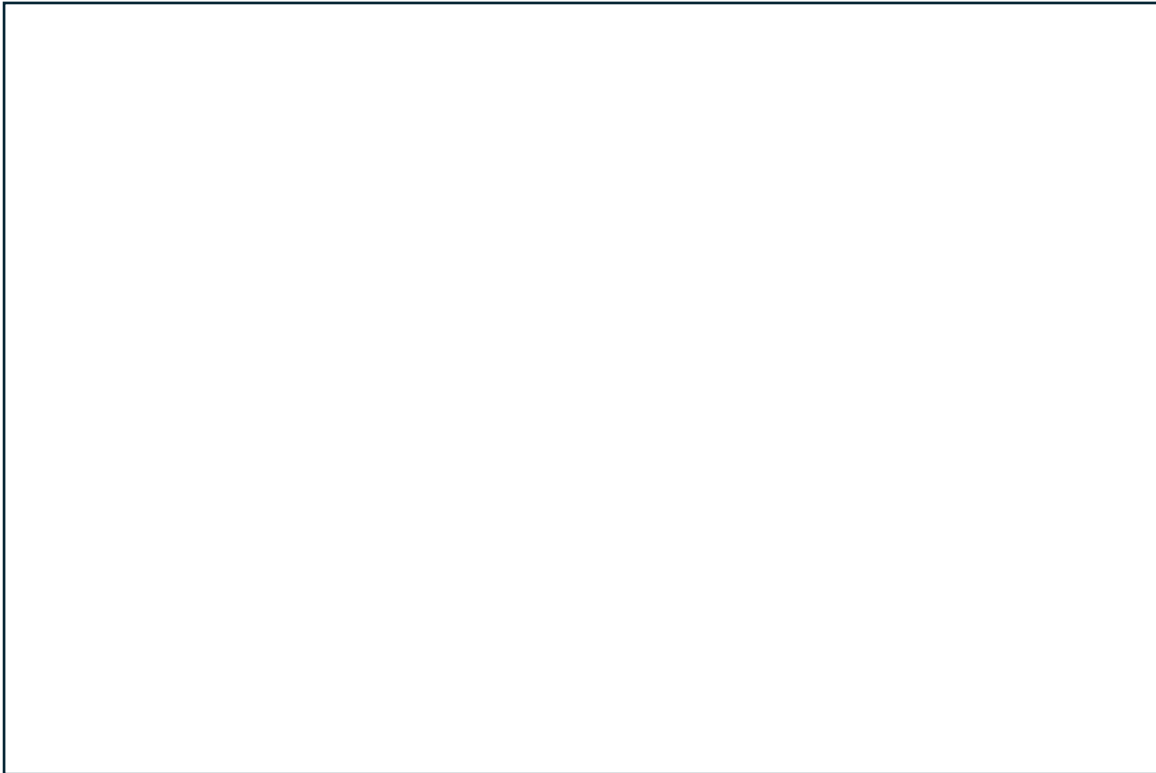
Group/School/CFLC: _____

Date: _____

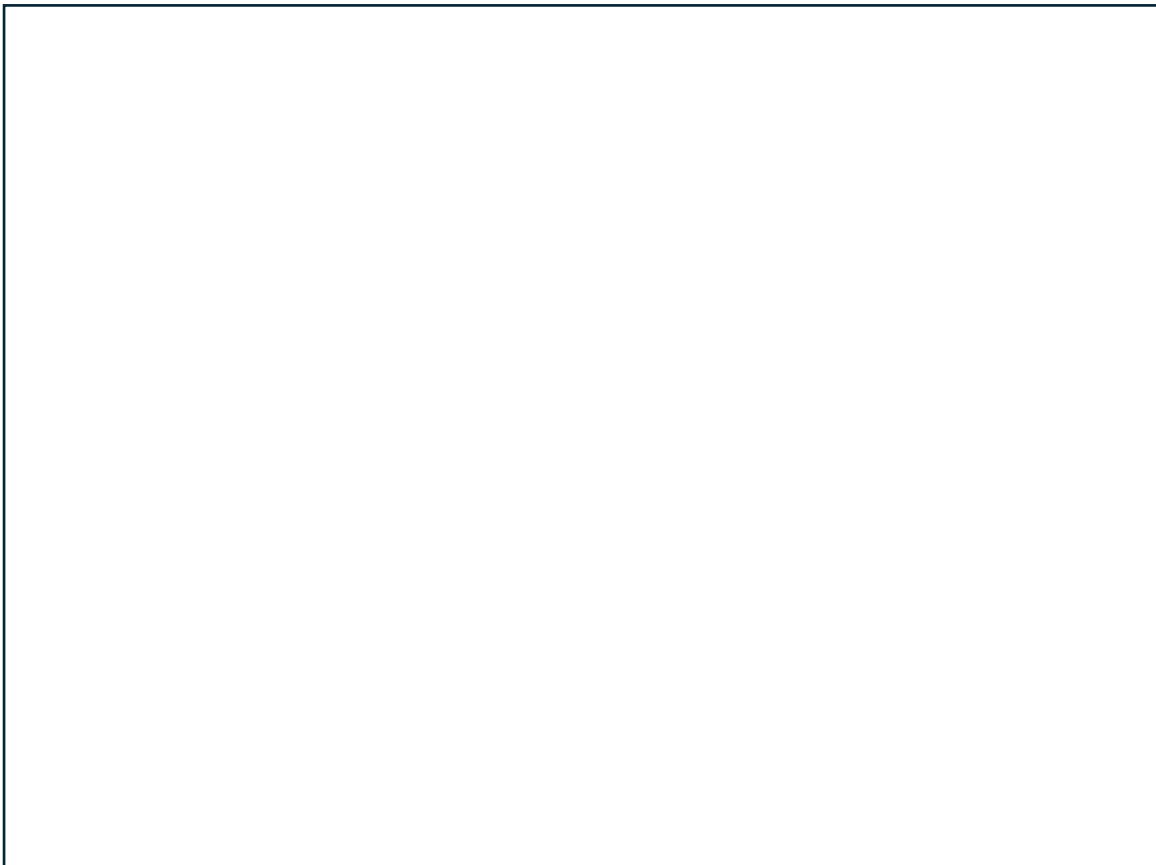
1. Please briefly describe the engagement undertaken.

2. What questions did you ask?

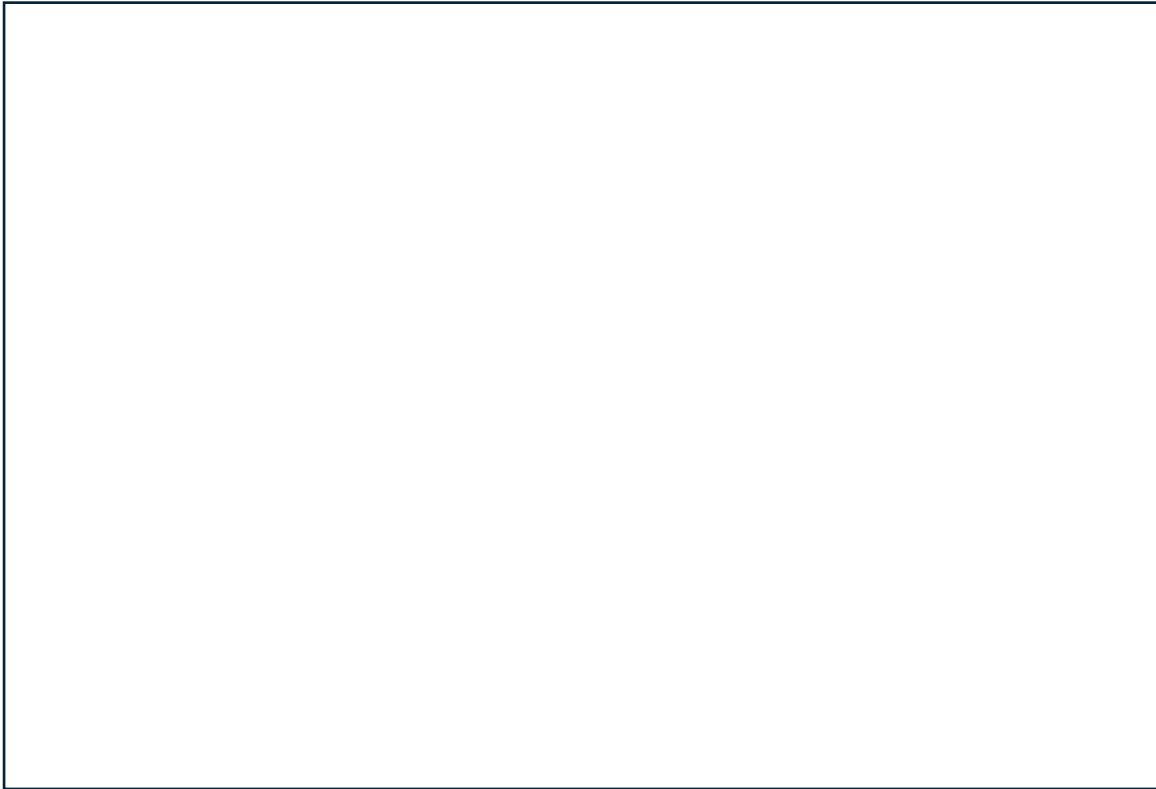
3. What did you hear about what success in education looks like now?



4. What did you hear about what success should look like in the future?



5. What did you hear about what needs to change to support success?



6. What did you hear about the definition of educational success?

