Develop · Financial Model and Sustainability

Budget Alignment

Guiding Question:

How can an effective budget advance the core priorities of a school?

Wise allocation of resources can advance educational equity and prioritize the most important features of a school model.

Step 1 – Research

What are the 3-5 most essential elements of your school design? Which ones can probably be supported wholly through standard funding allocations—and which ones probably can't?

Consider nontraditional staffing, student internships or other distinctive learning experiences, community partnerships, student services, technology expenses, extracurricular program costs, and more.

Step 2 – Reflect

Share your thoughts and takeaways with your team and discuss these questions:

• How might you use—and stretch—standard per-pupil allocations to bring your vision to life?

• Where do you expect to need additional resources? How might you meet those needs through other sources of philanthropic, in-kind, or community support?

• What questions do you want to investigate further? Where might you seek information and advice?

Design Element	Funding Source	Ideas and Questions