

The REENVISIONED Adult Interview Guide

(Use this guide when interviewing ADULTS)

1. **Take a moment and think about a child you care about. When you're ready, tell me about that child.**

Possible follow-up questions:

What is your relationship to them / how do you know them?

What kinds of things do they enjoy most?

What makes them unique and special?

What unique personality traits and skills do they bring to the world?

Do you think they're happy?

2. **Now, imagine that child is now in their 30s – out of school and starting into adult life. What do you hope for them about their life? What would make it a 'good' or 'successful' life?**

Possible follow-up questions:

If they use terms like "happy" or "successful" or "good" in their answer, ask them what that means to them. What does it take to be "happy" or "successful"?

3. **Is there anything you worry about getting in the way of them achieving that good life? Anything that keeps you up at night?**
4. **Ideally, what role do you think schooling should play in achieving that ideal good life?**

Possible follow-up questions:

Often people will talk about this broadly. That's okay, let them answer – and then ask them to talk specifically about the life they painted for the child they identified.

5. **Do/will schools play the role you think they should for your child?"? Why or why not?**

Possible follow-up questions:

As above, if people use terms that can be interpreted in different ways (e.g. "tests," "unions," "achievement," "assessment," "charters," "privatization," etc. – please follow up and ask them to be clear and explicit about why and how they see these things affecting their child's schooling experience.

6. **Will schools play the role you think it should for all children? If not, why not?**
-

ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL **ADULT** QUESTIONS

7. Do you think people agree with you on each of those levels?

This is a triple-barreled question! Start with this question, but lead them one by one through the levels: 1) On what a good life is?; 2) On the role schooling should play in getting children there?; On why or why not schools do this for all children?.

8. What have been some of your most empowering educational experiences? This doesn't have to be in school – it could be outside of school or after you finished.

Possible follow-up questions:

What made it empowering? How does it still affect you or your perspective today?

9. Tell me about your favorite teacher when you were in school. Why were they your favorite?

10. Was there anything I didn't ask that I should have? Or anything you've been thinking about recently related to schooling that you wish you could have talked about?

Additional Recommended Questions (if there is time)

1. How do you think your experience in school shapes your answers to these questions?
2. What do you think the purpose of schooling is for individuals and society, broadly?
3. What was your worst experience in school?
4. If you had to choose one thing to intervene on to make schools more like your ideal, what would it be?

