

Change The Schools . . .

A grassroots campaign by teachers, parents, students and other experts to REINVENT public education. 'Like' us on <http://Facebook.com/ChangeTheSchools>



How we educate and treat our children determines what we want our societies to become. To change the world, we can begin by changing our schools, into the human-friendly, creative, collaborative, supportive venues that they need to become

School reform is not about working around the edges, tinkering with the structure, or even about creating new schools outside the structure. What we must do--for all children--is REIMAGINE and REINVENT the entire structure, so that each child gets a chance at an excellent education.

This requires NEW THINKING about what school can become, a NEW VISION that builds a new consensus to influence public policy.

WE WANT

- ***HUMAN-FRIENDLY SCHOOLS, not factories.***
- ***CREATIVE & CRITICAL THINKING, not "standardized testing."***
- ***COLLABORATION & SYNERGY, not politics.***

School must be free and equal for ALL KIDS, with equal funding and equal access to technology for each child.

Most of all, we must CHANGE OUR MINDS about the purpose of schooling: The 21st century demands world citizens who can navigate a world that is global, immediate, interconnected and intellectually complex. That means our schools must become faster, leaner, smarter, more collaborative, and more attuned to the GIFTS each child brings to the schooling process.

School is not a numbers game, nor is it about national economies or the training of "workers." It is a place where we can light the intellectual fire within each child and, in one generation, transform our world into the vision we each hold in our deepest dreams.

Here's our "Manifesto":

No more blaming and fingerpointing, people. Let's just agree that the school structures currently in place are simply no match for the 21st century: It's global, it's immediate, it's interconnected and intellectually complex; it's a totally different environment for today's kids, one that requires **faster, leaner, smarter schools that are more about KIDS and less about politics, textbooks, or piecemeal fixes**. We're working for a new public education SYSTEM that looks like this:

- **HUMAN-FRIENDLY SCHOOLS, not factories** --Small, personalized environments, for EVERY kid, at every age. --Attention to each child's talents and passions, at every level of learning. --Teachers as coaches to place students at the center of the learning, with time and support for teachers to develop new approaches.
- **CREATIVE & CRITICAL THINKING, not "standardized testing"** --Comprehensive accountability systems that show students' ability to reason, synthesize, apply, and even create imaginative solutions with new knowledge. --Assessment in new forms, such as portfolios, presentations to parents, online responses, dialogue with teachers, to gauge *depth* of learning. --In-depth teaching and learning through projects, inquiry, and problem-solving that immerse students in both the acquisition and use of new knowledge.
- **COLLABORATION & SYNERGY, not politics** --Teacher teams to collaborate on new approaches and work to their strengths. --Parent-teacher teams to develop new uses of school time, space, and resources. --Non-partisan cooperation on new funding streams for public education and new governance systems that bring parents, teachers, students, and community into the decision-making process.

School CAN be an uplifting, nurturing place for kids, parents, teachers, and community--and YOU can make it happen! Spread the word . . . and help our legislators and Congress understand what real school change can be!



<http://ChangeTheSchools.com>