

**PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE NEW WORLD
ECONOMY**

EDUCATION CONFERENCE BOARD

ALBANY, NY

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THE CHALLENGES

- MUCH OF ECONOMY CHANGING
- DEMOGRAPHICS CHANGING
- EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENT LAGGING RELATIVE TO OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
- GAP BETWEEN WHAT ECONOMY NEEDS AND WHAT SCHOOLS PROVIDE

ECONOMIC CHANGE

- DECLINE OF MANUFACTURING
- TECHNOLOGY MOVES ACROSS BORDERS
- ECONOMIC ACTIVITY SHIFTS TO COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST PRODUCTIVITY RELATIVE TO COSTS
 - Not just call centers in India
 - Radiologists in Australia and India.
 - Software engineers around the world.
- RISING PRODUCTIVITY WITH IMPORTED TECHNOLOGIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES
- US ADVANTAGES IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURIAL APPLICATIONS

Macro-Educational Challenges

- HS Graduation Rates peaked at 77 % in 1969, in 70 % range since 1995.
- On-time graduation, blacks about 50 %; hispanics about 52 % in 2001 according to NCES.
- Six countries with higher graduation rates than U.S. and more on way.
- Achievement Gap—Blacks, Hispanics vs. Whites.
- Among 29 Countries, U.S. Achievement: 24th in Math; 15th in Reading; 20th in Science (OECD-Pisa-15 year olds)

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

- No growth in native-born workers.
- Immigrant workers to rise from 6 million in 1980 to 21 million in 2020.
- Immigration more than half of population growth between now and 2015.
- Immigrants lower education levels than natives.
- Projected education attainment will fall.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- Need to raise graduation rates.
- Need to raise achievement levels.
- Need to close achievement gaps.
- Need to focus on new goals beside achievement.
- Need to make students career or college-ready
- Need to expand higher education enrollments and program completion.

NEW FOCUS IN EDUCATION

- **Motivation:** building on the interests and goals of the student . Relating to student culture and experience.
- **Substance:** building skills within a substantive or real-world context as opposed to a more abstract approach.
- **Inquiry:** developing inquiry and research skills of students to help them learn about other subjects and areas about which they might be curious.

MORE EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- **Independence:** encouraging students to do independent meandering within the course structure to develop their own ideas, applications, and understandings.
- **Multiple Approaches:** using collaboration and teamwork, technology, tutoring, and independent investigation as suited to student needs.
- **High Standards:** setting high standards and expectations that all students will meet if they make adequate efforts and are given appropriate resources to support their learning.

MORE EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- **Problem Solving:** Viewing learning as less an encyclopedic endeavor and more as a way of determining what needs to be learned and how, and then implementing the how.
- **Connectiveness:** emphasizing the links among different subjects and experiences and how they can contribute to learning rather than seeing each subject and learning experience as isolated and independent.
- **Supportive Context:** recognizing that to a large degree learning is a social activity that thrives on healthy social interaction, encouragement, and support.
- **Multicultural Learning and Interactions:** In increasingly diverse society and workplace the ability to work with other cultures.

Educational Policy Questions

- Where will leadership come from?
- Requires transformation from top to bottom including all levels of education?
- Building a political coalition?
- How much will it cost?

Good News

Public Return on Investments in High School Graduation

Costs: Program Costs + Costs of Additional Years of Schooling.

Benefits: Additional Tax Revenues and Reductions in Costs of Crime, Public Assistance, Public Health

Benefits of Public Investment are 2-4 times the Cost.

Source: www.cbcse.org For release February 1.