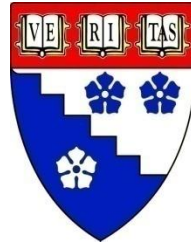


The Global Achievement Gap



**Tony Wagner, Co-Director
Change Leadership Group**

Harvard University, Graduate School of Education

tony_wagner@harvard.edu

www.gse.harvard.edu/clg

www.schoolchange.org

“The formulation of the problem is often more essential than the solution.” Einstein

What is the “crisis” in the American education really all about—what’s the “problem”?

If it ain't broke,
don't fix it!

School reform is just another fad.

Their schools are the problem, not ours!

Incremental change is the only way to go

The New Educational Challenges: “The Rock & The Hard Place”

- **The Rock: NEW SKILLS for Work, Continuous Learning & Citizenship in a “knowledge society” for ALL STUDENTS**
 - Convergence of skills needed for careers, college, citizenship
 - Students lacking skills relegated to marginal employment & citizenship
- **The Hard Place: The “Net Generation” is differently motivated to learn**
- **Re-Framing the Problem: Reform vs. Reinvention**
 - We do not know how to teach ALL students NEW skills. This is a new education challenge that requires development of new accountability structures, different ways of teaching and testing, and new ways of working together and with our students.

The Seven Survival Skills for Careers, College, And Citizenship

- 1. Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving**
- 2. Collaboration Across Networks and Leading by Influence**
- 3. Agility and Adaptability**
- 4. Initiative and Entrepreneurialism**
- 5. Effective Oral and Written Communication**
- 6. Accessing and Analyzing Information**
- 7. Curiosity and Imagination**

What is The “Global Achievement Gap”?

The Global Achievement Gap is the gap between what even our *best* schools are teaching and testing

Versus

The skills *all* students will need for careers, college, and citizenship in the 21st century

How Do We Stack Up to the Competition?

LITERACY

- PISA Reading Literacy: 15th out of 29 OECD countries
- PISA Problem-solving: 24th out of 29
- PISA Science Literacy: 21st out of 30
- PISA Math Literacy: 25th out of 30

COLLEGE COMPLETION

- **1995:** U.S. College completion rate was number 1 in the world
- **2005:** We had dropped to 13th in the world
- 1 out of 2 students who starts college never completes a degree

What Motivates The “Net” Generation?

- **Accustomed to instant gratification and “always-on” connection**
- **Use the web for 1) extending friendships, 2) interest-driven, self-directed learning, and 3) as a tool for self-expression**
- **Constantly connected, creating, and multitasking in a multimedia world—everywhere except in school**
- **Less fear and respect for authority—accustomed to learning from peers; want coaching, but only from adults who don’t “talk down” to them**
- **Want to make a difference and do interesting/worthwhile work**

Meeting The New Education Challenges: From Education 2.0 to Education 3.0

- **From narrow focus on “Timeless Learning” (academic content that has stood the test of time):**
 - Rigor is content mastery (getting more right answers)
 - Studying existing content by disciplines
 - Learners working alone & in competition
 - Motivated mainly by extrinsic rewards (grades)
 - Taught by isolated content experts through memorization/recall
 - Assessed mainly by multiple choice, computer scored tests
- **To mastering the *competencies* of “Just-in-Time Learning”**
 - Rigor is figuring out the right question/problem to be solved
 - Exploring new problems within & across disciplines
 - Learners working in teams
 - Motivated more by intrinsic rewards (pride in mastery, contributing)
 - Taught by teamed coaches through exploration/discovery
 - Assessed through auditing strategies, digital portfolios, & exhibitions of mastery (merit badges)

The Three Cornerstones of School “Re-Invention”

1. Holding Ourselves Accountable for What Matters Most

- “AYP” versus Attainment—track % of students graduating persisting with post-secondary (National Student Clearinghouse)
- Use The College and Work Readiness Assessment to assess analytic reasoning, critical thinking, problem-solving, and writing
- video focus groups with recent grads

2. Doing the New Work: teaching & testing the skills that matter most

- Start with the 3 C’s: Critical Thinking, Communication, and Collaboration—in every class and at all grade levels
- Require all students to do internships and group service projects

3. Doing the New Work *in New Ways*

- Every teacher on teams for collaborative inquiry
- Video teaching, supervision, and meetings
- Every student has an adult advocate for his/her success

Some Action Items for State Leaders

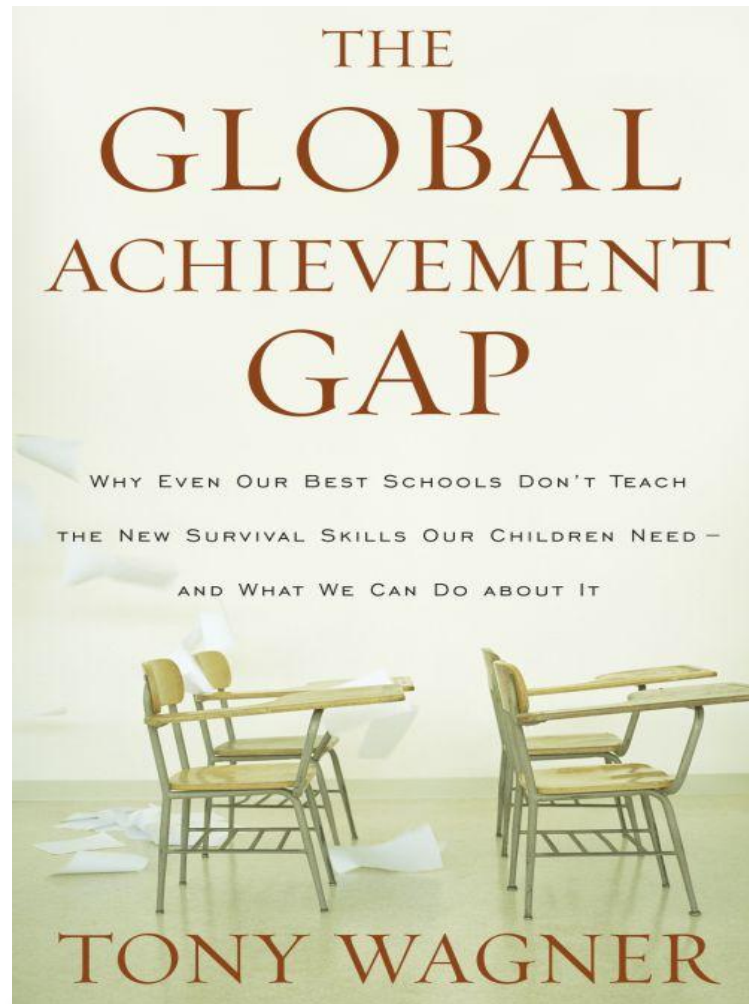
- **Business and Education Leaders** need to help policy makers and the public understand the difference between content vs. performance standards and assessments (timeless learning vs. “just-in-time” learning)
- **Lobby for performance standards to license and re-certify educators:** teachers as assembly line workers vs. knowledge workers (teacher portfolios with videos of instruction, samples of student work, assignments, etc.)
- **Fund development of R & D by** creating model schools—pictures of what 21st century schooling can be—like New Tech High and High Tech High in San Diego—and videotape exemplary lessons and teacher team meetings.



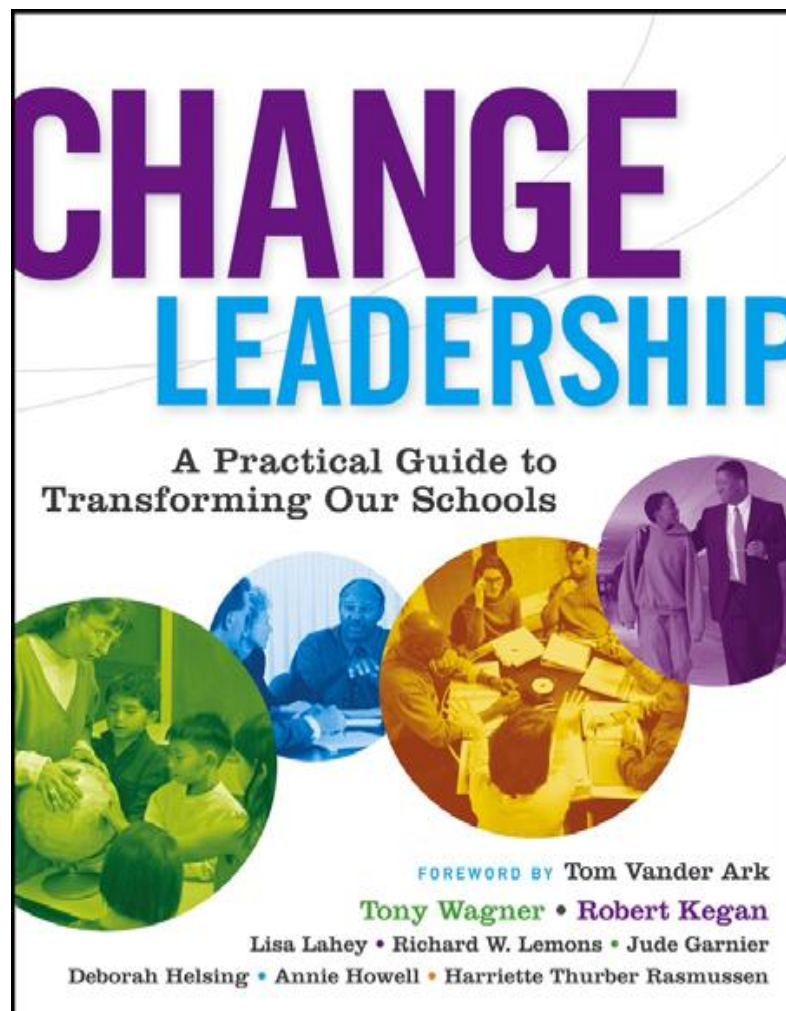
For more information:

www.schoolchange.org

For Still More Information . . .



And More Still . . .



Resources

- The College and Work Readiness Assessment
http://www.cae.org/content/pro_collegework.htm
- “Problem-Solving For Tomorrow’s World,” PISA 2003
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/25/12/34009000.pdf>
- Other PISA tests: www.pisa.oecd.org
- ETS “ISkills Test” www.ets.org/iskills
- “Towards a More Comprehensive Conception of College Readiness” by David Conley
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/nr/downloads/ed/researchevaluation/CollegeReadinessPaper.pdf>
- “How the World’s Best-Performing School Systems Come Out on Top”
http://www.mckinsey.com/client-service/social-sector/resources/pdf/Worlds_School_Systems_Final.pdf
- National Student Clearinghouse
<http://studentclearinghouse.org/highschools/default.htm>

Resources

- High Tech High website (videos, curriculum, digital portfolios)
<http://www.hightechhigh.org/>
- Coalition of Essential Schools website (videos, workshops, other resources) <http://www.essentialschools.org/>
 - Francis Parker Essential School (7-12) www.parker.org
 - Mission Hill School (k-8) www.missionhillschool.org
- Catalina Foothills 21st century skills overview
http://www.cfsd16.org/public/_century/centMain.aspx
 - Mary Jo Conery, Assistant Superintendent for 21st Century Learning, Catalina Foothills School District, 2101 E. River Road, Tucson, Arizona 85718, (520) 209-7500, mjc@cfsd.k12.az.us
- “Two Million Minutes,” a documentary film comparing 6 high school students in the US, China, and India
<http://www.2mminutes.com/index.html>
- Partnership for 21st Century Skills <http://21stcenturyskills.org/>
- NY Performance Standards Consortium (28 high schools using coming assessments) <http://performanceassessment.org/index.html>

Resources - Videos

- Video 1—10th Grade English Class:
<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/clg/books/1.html#video>
- Video 2—”Looking for An Argument.” See also “Teaching American History” for an excellent example of an “inquiry” approach to teaching subject content
<http://www.teacherscollegepress.com/teachertoteacher.html>
- Quest High School Senior Project Video—excellent example of performance assessment <http://store.essentialstore.org/ces-essentialvisions-disc-2-student-achievemen.html>
- BERC Group videos—varying quality, good for discussion
<http://www.bercgroup.com/products.php>
- *Highline School District high school student focus group video* <http://www.hsd401.org/parentinfo/hsredesign/studentvoices.htm>
- A video on how to do focus groups: “Creating Community Consensus: Dialogues for Learning & Engagement”
<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/ibc/tw.xml>