“School” will take many forms. Sometimes it will be self-organized. Work will evolve so rapidly that continuous career readiness will become the norm. Diverse forms of credentials, certificates, and reputation markers will reflect the many ways in which people learn and demonstrate mastery. As more people take it upon themselves to find solutions, a new wave of social innovation will help address resource constraints and other challenges. At the same time, geographic and virtual communities will take ownership of learning in new ways, blending it with other kinds of activity. Some of those tools will use rich data to provide insight into learning and suggest strategies for success.

Learning will no longer be defined by time and place — unless a learner wants to learn at a particular time and in a particular place.

Learners and their families will create individualized learning playlists reflecting their particular interests, goals, and values. Those learning playlists might include public schools but could also include a wide variety of digitally-mediated or place-based learning experiences.

Whatever the path, radical personalization will become the norm, with learning approaches and supports tailored to each learner.

Educators’ jobs will diversify as many new learning agent roles emerge to support learning.

These changes point the way toward a diverse learning ecosystem in which learning adapts to each child instead of each child trying to adapt to school.

For KnowledgeWorks’ full forecast on the future of learning, see Recombinant Education: Regenerating the Learning Ecosystem knowledgeworks.org/strategic-foresight

A wide variety of digital networks, platforms, and content resources will help learners and learning agents connect and learn.

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