




EDUCATION IN THE BALANCE: Tensions Affecting Education's Futures



The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened longstanding inequities. Concurrently, the public outcry caused by the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other Black individuals has pushed long-brewing tensions to the fore. Leaders at all levels of education need to grapple with key issues as they strive to meet learners' needs.

LEADERSHIP FOCUS Having adapted quickly to the pandemic, learning communities face a critical point of choice.

Will system leaders bring people together to reimagine education?  **OR**  Will system leaders focus on returning to what used to be normal?



 *Where do you see opportunities to change education systems while navigating turbulence? Where do you want education to stay the same – and why?*

CONTESTED POWER Communities of color have been finding new avenues of power and influence.

Will community activism have a lasting impact?  **OR**  Will established power structures persist?

 *Where could you create opportunities to overhaul educational decision making and authority? Where do you feel attached to established approaches?*

STRAINED SYSTEMS Education systems' capacity to address the complex problems they face is limited.

Will new approaches and funding address looming challenges?  **OR**  Will systems continue to rely on inadequate approaches and structures?

 *Where might you advocate for new approaches and resources that could bolster systems' capacity? What challenges might you face?*

As leaders work to manage current reality and pursue future visions, the choices they make in addressing these issues will set the parameters for what is possible for learning – and for every learner.

For more information and suggestions for making sense of these issues in your context, visit us online at <https://KnowledgeWorks.org/KeyIssues>.