

Charting a New Course for Education

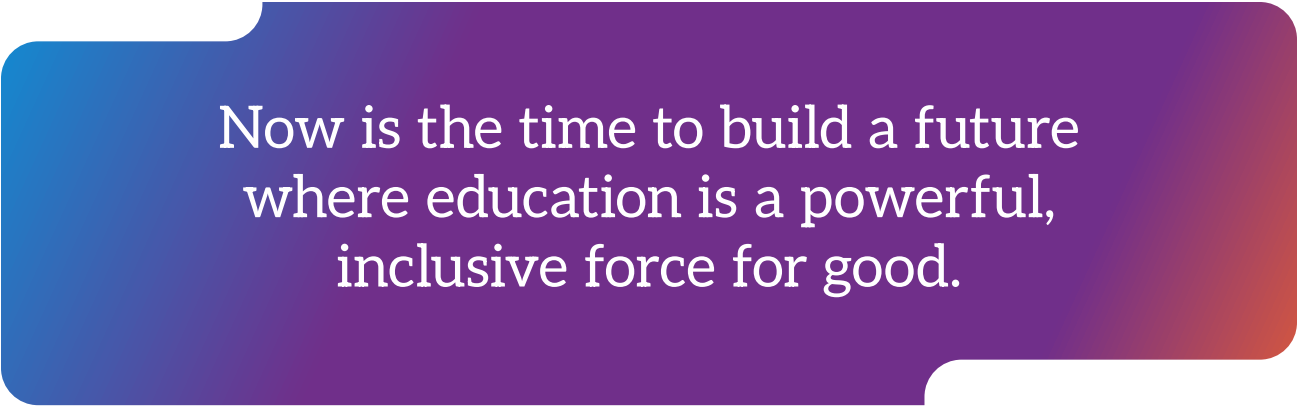
AN OVERVIEW

[*Charting a New Course for Education*](#), KnowledgeWorks' newest forecast on the future of learning, explores possibilities for the future of K-12 education in the U.S. At a time that feels especially uncertain, this forecast explores how change might unfold over the decade, primarily at the system level. Given the importance of creating systems that prioritize learners' humanity, joy, academic and human development, and ability to determine their own paths, this forecast offers education leaders and changemakers strategic considerations to weigh as they chart a way forward into an unknown future.

Why today feels different from the past

Several broad changes in society are creating our current experiences and serving as the launchpad for the future.

- » The **climate crisis** is driving more frequent and intense environmental disasters, extreme weather events, shifts in temperature and precipitation patterns. Many aspects of life will need to adjust to new climate realities.
- » Generative **artificial intelligence (AI)** is on pace to become as widespread as the internet and is continuing to evolve. AI presents immense potential to create fundamental changes in learning, the workforce and human cognition and behavior.
- » People in the U.S. are experiencing **social fragmentation**, a sense of division and a lack of connection. The ongoing struggle to find common ground and accept shared truth will influence education, community life and efforts to shape social institutions.



Now is the time to build a future
where education is a powerful,
inclusive force for good.

What is pushing us forward

The four drivers of change below help focus attention on the most pressing and relevant trends, patterns, plans and developments that are likely to affect K-12 education over the next decade.

- » As people continue to **integrate with AI**, next-generation artificial intelligence will change how humans think and feel, challenging current notions of skill development and human relationships and requiring new approaches to teaching and assessment.
- » **Everyday disruptions**, ranging from small- to large-scale, could upend daily life in school and other learning environments, rendering conventional approaches to educational management and changemaking insufficient to meet emerging needs.
- » As **eroding public institutions** are impacted by declining confidence, economic constraints and expanding market-based competition, public education systems could need to redefine the ways they serve learners and communities.
- » As **the relevance gap** widens and young people's realities grow further and further removed from the world of school, education systems face an urgent need to integrate students' emerging needs, concerns and aspirations into learning.

Where we might end up

The forecast presents three future provocations that illustrate how K-12 education might change as the drivers of change unfold and intersect. Provocations are bold ideas that help people consider how the future could be different than today. Over the next 10 years, we could see:

- » **Learning Experiences and Environments:** AI-driven personalization, climate-resilient school design and alternative assessments could reshape how and where learning happens
- » **Learning Providers and Structures:** Fluid options for learners, modular public education and basic underfunded options could redefine how learning is accessed and organized
- » **Governance and Administration:** Power-sharing, ambiguous authority and AI-driven automation could transform how education systems are governed, funded and managed

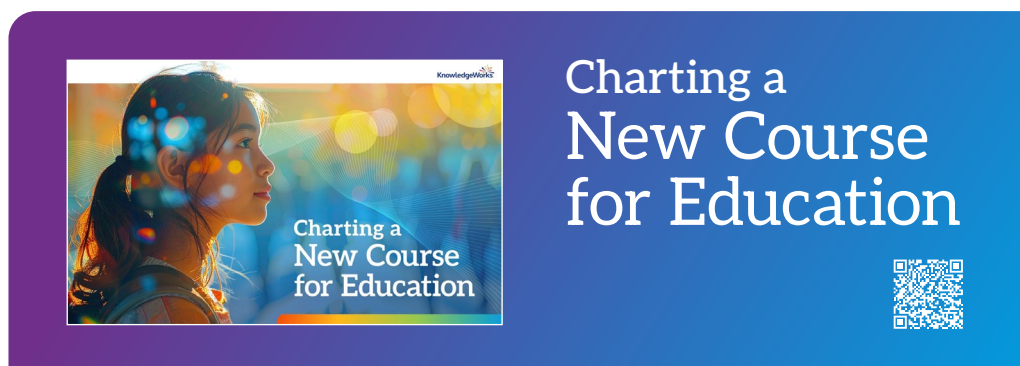
How we can move forward

Education leaders and changemakers must reconsider many assumptions as they shape organizational priorities, reconsider critical skills, identify learning goals and develop strategies for providing each young person with meaningful learning experiences. These strategic considerations represent key areas of focus during the coming structural transition.

- » How do we leverage **emerging market dynamics** for public good?
- » How do we help learners navigate the **diversifying education marketplace**?
- » How do we ensure **equitable and effective funding** for structures and school quality systems?
- » How do we participate in and coordinate **dynamic networks**?
- » How will disruptive forces and AI use impact **young people's development**?
- » How do we engage in **ongoing learning and leadership practices** that fit the shifting landscape?

A decade of crucial choices

While the next decade presents a unique opportunity to transform K-12 education, it also presents significant risks. Education could be a strong public good or could become increasingly fragmented. Education systems will need to be fundamentally reconceived and designed if they are to serve all learners and communities effectively.



✉ Contact us at foresight@knowledgeworks.org if you are interested in making sense of the forecast through an engagement or using it to inform a publication specific to your context.

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