Deeper Learning Advocates

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A Quick Overview of the Learning Problem

Common Sense

- Good citizenship requires education

- Schools are necessary (even though education happens outside of schools, too)

- Today, deep learning is required to become educated

  - Institutional patterns that consistently diminish the depth of learning are <u>intolerable expedients</u>

  - <u>Intolerable expedients</u> include:

    - suffocation, dehydration, starvation, & exposure (thwarting primary *physiological* needs)

    - sleep deprivation (thwarting a primary *psychological* need)

  - The existence of <u>intolerable expedients</u> in our K-12 school system is caused by a combination of historical accidents and ineffective communication about recent scientific insights into learning.

    - Mainstream K-12 school management currently emphasizes <u>obedience</u> over **engagement**

Recent Scientific Insights Into Learning

- **Engagement** is a prerequisite for deep learning

  - **Engagement** naturally follows from the satisfaction of primary human needs

    - When <u>obedience</u> undermines primary human needs it can cause **disengagement**

  - <u>Intolerable expedients</u> include thwarting primary *psychological* needs for autonomy, competence, & relatedness

    - Management for <u>obedience</u> via <u>intolerable expedients</u> causes rampant **disengagement** resulting in a global problem that Gallup estimates is costing us $7 trillion per year**.**

- Evidence suggests that family-directed and self-directed learning situations are at least as good as mainstream K-12 schooling (teacher- and school-directed learning situations) on traditional metrics, but superior on **engagement** metrics

Deeper Learning Advocates is championing a new strategy (see other side) to solve this $7 trillion global problem, but we need your help to pull it off.

<u>Bottom line</u>: **Manage for engagement, not obedience.**

Help us advocate for better K-12 schools, join today!

DLAdvocates.org

Join DLA

Deeper Learning Advocates is a program of School Alternatives, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
Scan the QR code to the right to become a monthly contributing member via PayPal or credit card.

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Vision:

We envision enthusiastic students being taught by passionate teachers in joyful K-12 schools that are managed for engagement, not obedience.

Mission:

We assist school leaders with embedding the psychology of learning in policy so that policy will stop undermining learning.

Strategy:

Sustainable organizational climate change requires **top-down protection for bottom-up psychological innovation.** Policy makers can create new opportunities for innovation by enacting the "Primary Needs are the Foundation of Deeper Learning" Resolution (presented in the book *More Joy, More Genius*) and putting aside money to support their front-line staff and faculty to create or adopt innovations that are aligned with the psychology of learning. Resolutions are not legally binding, but they are strong signals to the rest of the organization that the leaders are pointing everyone in a new direction.

Part of the deal is that the leaders, when possible, forego academic data until there is robust psychological climate data revealing the patterns of motivation and engagement that are at the core of deeper learning. During the planning and approval process innovators identify the status quo policies that impose onerous obligations that erode their ability to enact or maintain their particular innovation. The policy makers would then pass legally binding policies that would ensure that the innovators get enough freedom, time (5-10 years for whole school changes), and resources to act on their proposal with the caveat that the innovators share data that shows that they are **consistently improving or maintaining the motivation and engagement of students and teachers.**

Action Plan:

#1 Make the case for deeper learning policy campaigns (*More Joy, More Genius* book)
#2 Recruit individuals and organizations to join as monthly contributing members
#3 Catalyze & support deeper learning policy campaigns throughout the K-12 industry

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