



## Six Stages of American Public Education From 1900 to Today's Context for Change

A Visual Refresher for Education Innovators

by Dave Lash

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Dave Lash is a facilitator and consultant specializing in strategy and innovation. He is a co-author of The Turnaround Challenge, the influential 2007 research report that presents a new framework for turning around failing schools. Over 175,000 copies of the report have been downloaded. Dave works at the nexus of learning, technology, and product/process design, including work for United Technologies, MIT, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Kauffman Foundation. He played a key role in creating and growing a Massachusetts independent school serving students from years 3 to 15 in multi-age classrooms.

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## 1900-1950 CULT OF EFFICIENCY

School-as-factory model gets locked in

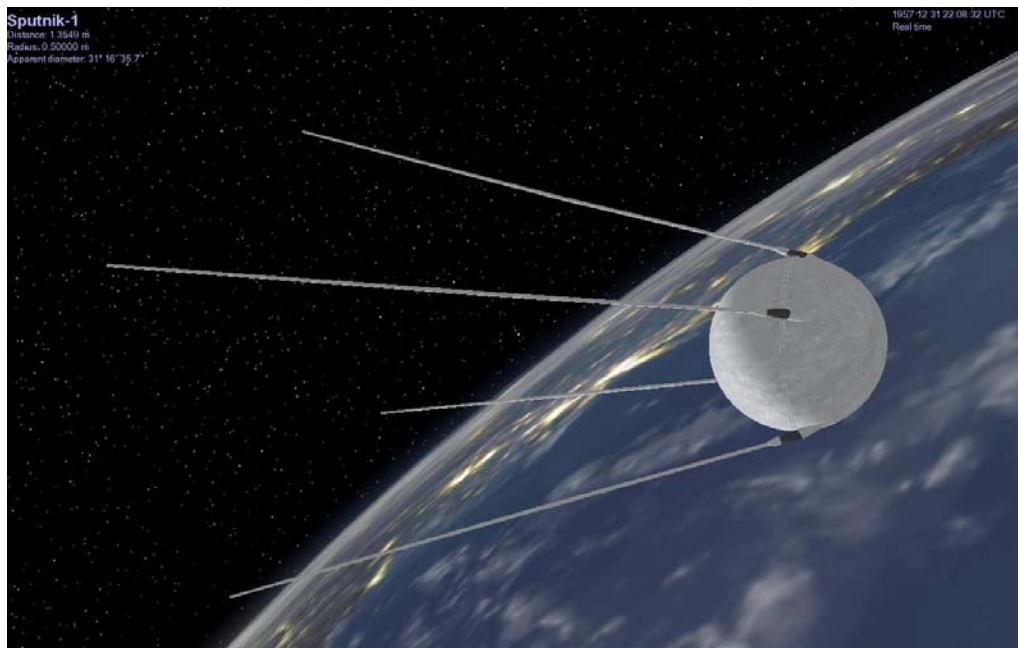


Ford's moving assembly line became operational at the Highland Park Plant in 1913 and dropped the time it took to build a Model T from up to 14 hours to about 1.5 hours.



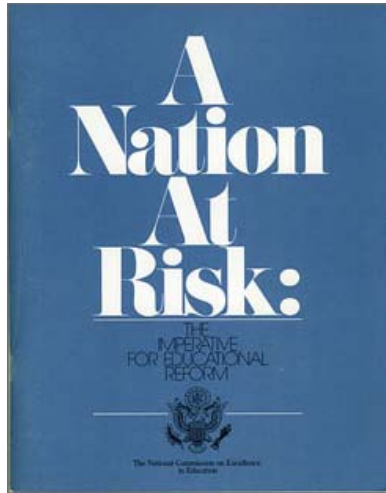
## 1950-1970 SPUTNIK ERA

Heavy investment in education; period of relative satisfaction



## 1970-1985 NATION AT RISK

Dissatisfaction become alarm



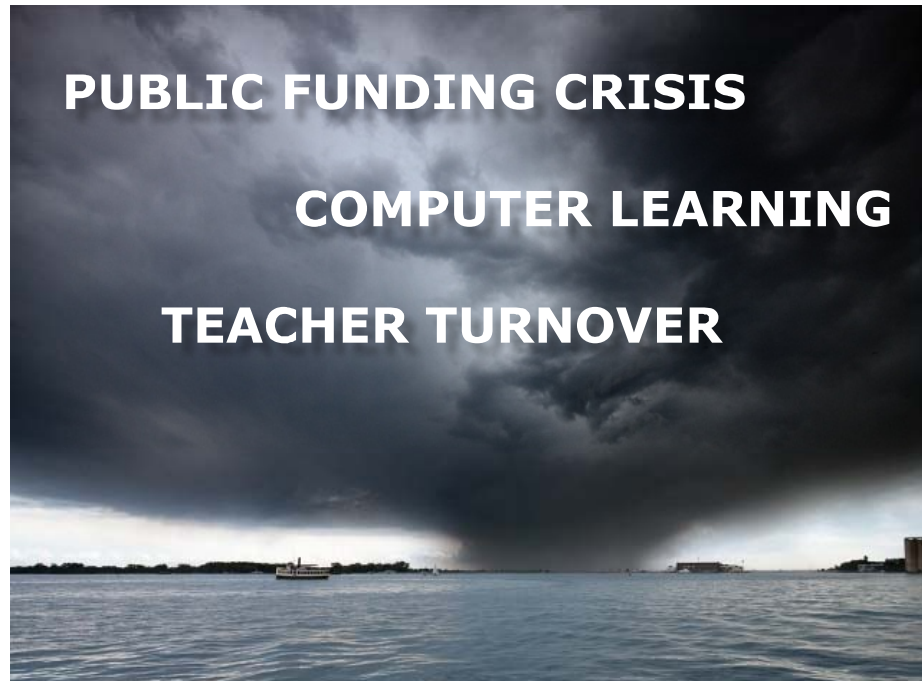
## 1985-today SANDBAR ERA

Accountability era; Incremental reform but school-as-factory model is like a ship run aground



## today **STORM CLOUDS RISING**

Three external disturbances coalescing



## **COULD THE STORM BLOW US OFF THE SANDBAR?**



could we apply  
its force to the  
creation of the  
next generation  
of learning?



# today TYPICALLY, QUALITY ADDS COST

Traditional ed reform raises cost per pupil



# THE OPENING FOR MAJOR CHANGE

Use the storm to blow public education from school-as-factory to more productive waters

