



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

A Visual Refresher for Education Innovators

by Dave Lash

<http://www.recessioneering.com/2010/02/06/six-stages-of-education/>

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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

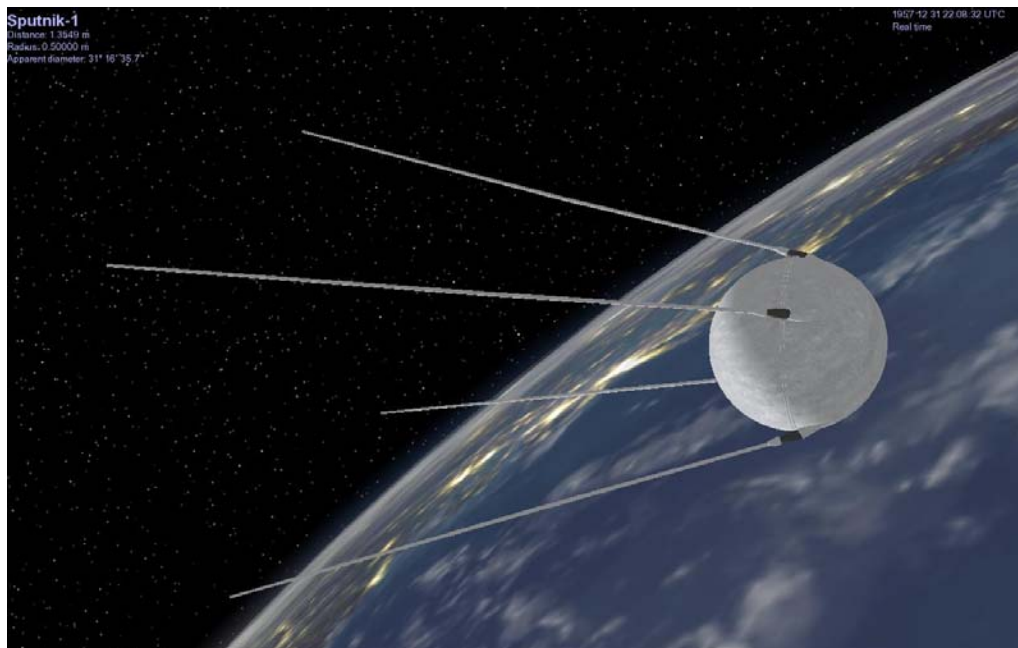


Ford's moving assembly line became operational at the Highland Park Plant in 1913 and dropped the time it took to build a Model T from up to 14 hours to about 1.5 hours.



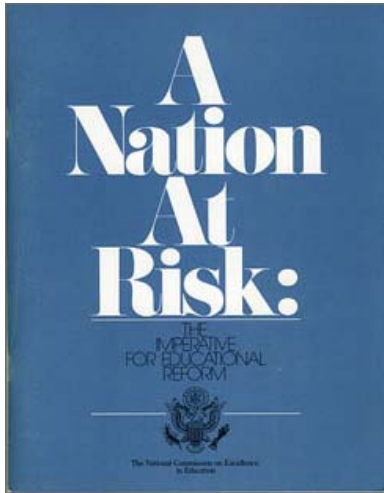
1950-1970 SPUTNIK ERA

Heavy investment in education; period of relative satisfaction



1970-1985 NATION AT RISK

Dissatisfaction become alarm



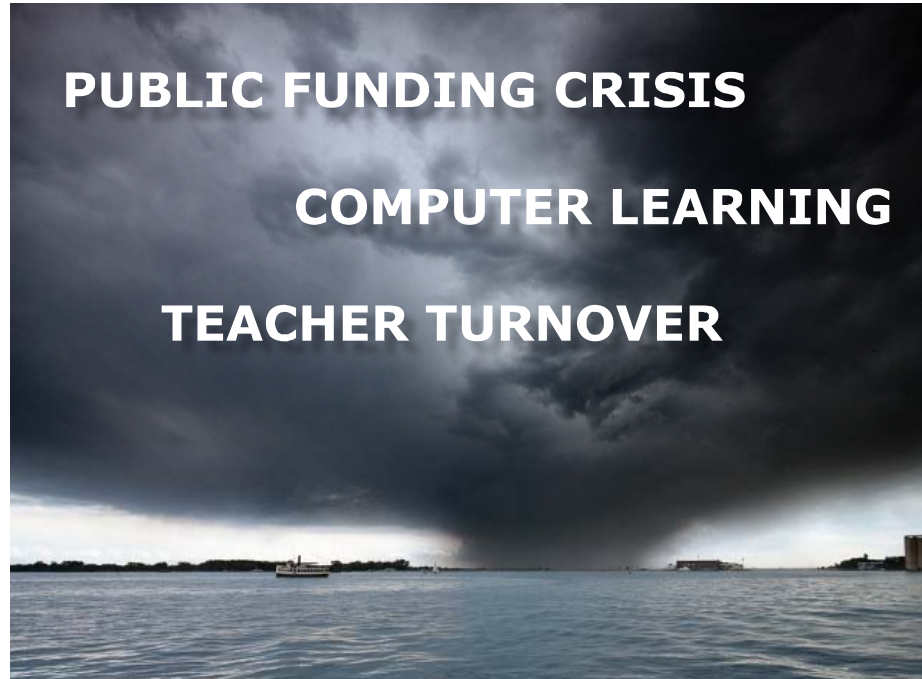
1985-today SANDBAR ERA

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

