

VISION

A Preferable Future

Vision Some Questions

- What is a preferable future?
- What does a vision look like?
- How can I develop a vision?



What Is a Preferable Future?



- Seeing the future
- Getting to the future
- Arriving at the preferable future

Vision in the Bible

- After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”

Genesis 15:1 NKJV

- The “word” of God indicates God’s thoughts and will.

Habakkuk 2:2-3

- Then the Lord answered me and said:
- “Write the vision
- And make *it* plain on tablets,
- That he may run who reads it.
- For the vision *is* yet for an appointed
time;



Vision In Education

WHY GO TO **SCHOOL?**

If the purpose of our schools is to prepare drones to keep the U.S. economy going, then the prevailing curricula and instructional methods are probably adequate. If, however, we want to help students become thoughtful, caring citizens who might be creative enough to figure out how to change the status quo rather than maintain it, we need to rethink schooling entirely. Mr. Wolk outlines what he considers to be the essential content for a new curriculum.

BY STEVEN WOLK

LAST YEAR my son's homework in second grade was 400 worksheets. The year before, in first grade, his homework was also 400 worksheets. Each day he brought home two worksheets, one for math and one for spelling. That was two worksheets a day, five days a week, 40 weeks a year. The math was little more than addition or subtraction problems. The other worksheet was more insidious. My son had 15 spelling words each week. On some days his worksheets required him to unscramble the spelling words. On other days

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Vision In Education

The Skill Set

Lawrence Hardy

*What do graduates need
to be successful in the 21st century?*

The reports, studies, and initiatives keep coming—dire assessments of the weak skills of U.S. high school graduates and the increasing competition they face in a burgeoning global economy. We have *The Urgency Gap*, *America's Perfect Storm*, *Tough Choices or Tough Times*, and most frightening of all, *Be Very Afraid*.

All right, we made up that last one. There is no report called *Be Very Afraid*. But since 1983's *A Nation at Risk* and its provocative, if rather absurd, charge that the mediocre U.S. public schools—if foisted on us by a foreign power—would constitute an act of war, we have operated at somewhere between code yellow and orange with respect to our ongoing crisis in the public schools.

But is the world truly different now, in the 21st century? And have U.S. students kept up? The flurry of reports makes a good case that it is, and they haven't. Consider:

■ "Employing demographic projections combined with current skills distributions, we estimate that by 2030 the average levels of literacy and numeracy in the working-age population will have decreased by about 5 percent ... Over this same period, nearly half

the projected job growth will be concentrated in occupations associated with higher education and skill levels."—*America's Perfect Storm: Three Forces Changing Our Nation's Future*, a February report of the Educational Testing Service (ETS).

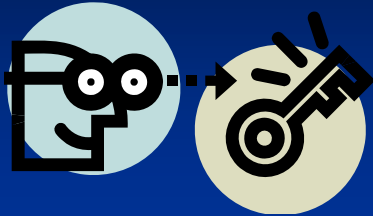
■ "Thirty years ago, the United States could lay claim to having 30 percent of the world's population of college students. Today that proportion has fallen to 14 percent and is continuing to fall."—*Tough Choices or Tough Times*, the 2007 report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce.

The decrease in literacy and numeracy predicted by ETS will be driven by increasing numbers of low-skilled Hispanic immigrants and their children. But the graduation rate among current students also is disturbingly low, having dropped to about 70 percent after peaking at 77 percent in 1999. Numerous groups—including the National Governors Association, which issued a report called *The Silent Epidemic*—say the dropout rate threatens the nation's economic security.

The emergence of globalization

But what about our high school graduates? Several reports say they're not doing well enough either. For example, an ACT report on the Class of 2006 found that just 42 per-

Developing Your Vision



- Following through
- Gaining resources
- Involving God

Following through with your vision

- Understand the ideas involved
- Consider further education
- Commit it to writing
- Set specific goals with specific deadlines
- Share your vision

Gaining resources

- First, look within
 - Local school
 - Local district
- Second, look without
 - Local community groups
 - State or regional sources



More Resources

- Federal or nonprofit sources
 - Learn how to write grants
 - Present your vision clearly
 - Be aware of any "strings"

Including God in your vision

- Pray
- Seek out Christian counselors
- Make sure your vision promotes His purposes

Destination-Your Vision



- **Understand:**
 - What it takes to fulfill a vision
- **Believe:**
 - That you can have and inspire vision
- **Act:**
 - Begin to develop your vision for education