

7,307 views | Jan 1, 2020, 06:43pm

Four Bold Predictions In K12 Education For The Next Decade

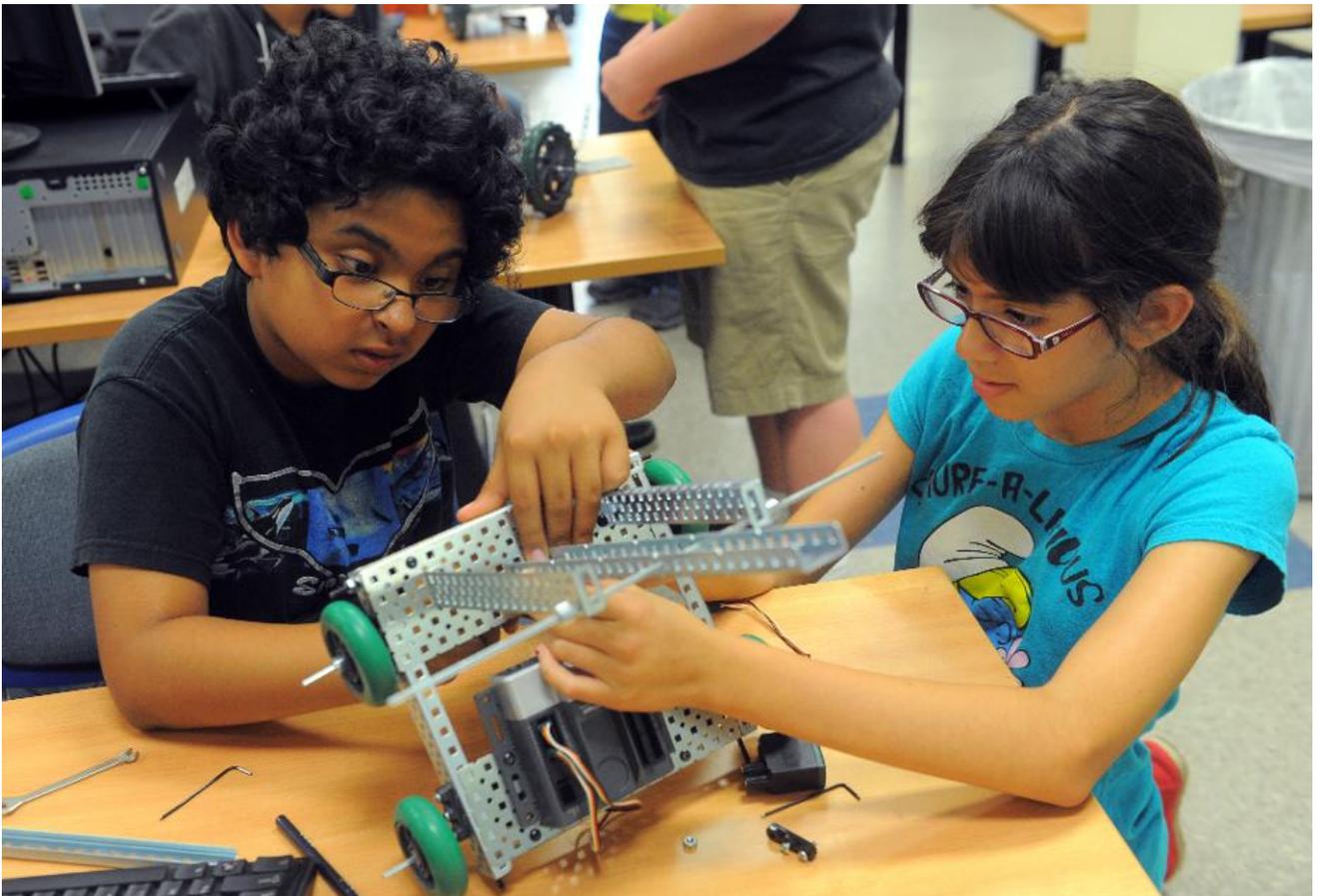


Jabez LeBret Contributor 

Education

I write about innovation in education

What will happen in K12 education over the next decade? These predications range from bold to practical and give hope that this could be a golden decade in the education world.



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Difference Making Takes Center Stage

Caroline Vander Ark, [President of Getting Smart](#), sees the focus of what information we teach and the core attributes of graduates shifting in a new direction.

“In the next decade, school will become a place to learn how to make a difference. No longer will students be confined to memorizing facts but rather learning how to solve complex problems. We will see less focus on testing and ranking cohorts and more attention to individual contribution. Students will leave high school with a firm understanding of the unique contribution they can make in the world. This will also result in more place-based learning experiences where education happens outside of the school walls. The community will become the classroom and students will serve and learn where they live. Mentors and teachers will serve as learning guides to help connect student's passion with learning focus and purpose. AI and machine learning will be more prevalent, and as a result, society will want students who are civic-minded, full of curiosity, able to solve challenges and ready to make a difference.”

Better Pathways and Newer Credit Options

Today In: [Leadership](#)



Tim Taylor, [President of America Succeeds](#) and co-author of [The Age of Agility Report](#), predicts we will see a change in what counts as credit hours and the pathway students take to adulthood.

“The next decade will see a rapid expansion of education pathways to meet the needs of all learners. This will include more career and technical programs and skill certification along with two-year degrees and four-year degrees. Another shift will be a large increase in the number of opportunities for students to earn credit for learning that happens outside of the classroom. Community-based programs offered by organizations like Boy & Girls Clubs or museums and other learning and work experience that prepares learners to succeed in a rapidly changing world will become more widely available and resourced.”

Learner-Centered Models Bridge Gaps



Kelly Young, [President of Education Reimagined](#), believes that both schools and programs will shift toward a student-centered model.

“I predict that by 2030 [learner-centered education](#) will exist as a local option for most kids in the United States reaching young people across lines of geography, race, and socio-economic backgrounds. Some of the major sources of those options will come from the exponential growth in the number of areas. Public schools, and schools within schools, will offer learner-centered pathways as an option for young people and families such as [Big Picture](#), Montessori, and Reggio Emilia programs. We will see a shift to alternative, career and technical education campuses and programs fully embracing learner-centered practices such as [JJ Cairns Continuation School](#) in Lindsay Unified School District, CA. For some parents who choose flexible programs we will see a rise in learner-centered home-schooling [co-learning hubs](#) and co-ops such as [Workspace Education](#), in Bethel, Connecticut. Finally, we will have programs credentialing learning no matter where it happens so that learner-centered after-school and summer programs can be part of a child’s formal education.”

Micro-credentialing Leads to Drop in Four-Year University Programs

This is my prediction for the decade. There will be a sharp increase in high school students who receive [micro-credentials](#) right after graduation in lieu of attending a four year university full-time. These students will have employable skills ranging from robotics to programming and a university backed credential giving them access to employment. With the rise of the gig-economy, these students will have the ability to work remotely, or in an office, on a flexible schedule and earn a livable wage without taking on massive student debt. The universities that are quickest to improve their online courses and establish proper rubrics for credentialing will insulate their revenue sources from the decline in full-time student enrollment. The opportunity to earn a micro-credential from a university at any time will blur the lines between secondary and post-secondary. This will force school districts to rethink their funding models as more students will opt to start working before graduation. Ultimately, this will result in decreased student seat-time and for some schools that will equal less dollars.



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Jabez is co-founder of Sisu Academy, the first all-girls tuition-free boarding high school with a long term self-funding model. He is formerly co-founder of two compani... **Read More**