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Forward Thinking: Changing World, Changing Times, Changing Schools

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ABSTRACT

When we utilize past events and current knowledge to anticipate what is coming next through a combination of possibility thinking and intuition we are better prepared for future challenges and opportunities, discover innovative strategies, and remain proactive in the pursuit of meaningful change. This is forward thinking. The complexity of global change directly impacts present and future educational change. Education, in its institutional sense, historically focused on initiatives designed to benefit individuals and society. An examination of the institution of education and its benefit for society is occurring as policy-makers and individuals face the impact of financial issues, technology, and changing demographics. The essential question for change agents, decision makers, and stakeholders is three-pronged. How do we, (a) sort out truth, (b) maintain our moral compass, and (c) lead positive change? This paper explores an understanding of the forces of change, emerging issues impacting education, and the economic and information shifts impacting society. A potential answer to the essential question presented for consideration is grounded in the concept of forward thinking which is facilitated by knowledge and mindfulness.