



Leaps toward Extraordinary Learning for All

The experiences young people have in our schools today will shape our society tomorrow. [Transcend's](#) Leaps toward Extraordinary Learning for All describe the key ways we believe these experiences must change so that every young person can reach their infinite potential. These Leaps help schools move from experiences that often leave young people disconnected and struggling to experiences that are engaging and effectively build the [knowledge, skills, and mindsets](#) young people need to thrive in and transform the world. Bringing these Leaps to life requires thoughtful and coherent decisions across every part of a school's design.

Industrial-Era Learning

Narrow Focus

Learning focuses exclusively on academics and developing students' minds, overlooking their holistic growth and well-being.

Isolation & Conformity

Learners share space with peers and adults but often lack deep connections, meaningful opportunities to collaborate, or ways to get to know and celebrate one another, leading many to feel pressure to conform or risk isolation.

Low Expectations with Surface-Level Learning

Learners complete rote, low-level tasks aimed at memorizing broad but shallow content, with varying access to opportunities and treatment from adults shaped by inconsistent and often low expectations.

Irrelevance

Learning is disconnected from real-world topics and challenges, as well as from the prior knowledge, interests, goals, and life experiences of young people.

One-Size-Fits-All Approach

Learners experience the same content and activities at the same pace, holding some back from more advanced content and activities while leaving others behind.

Passive Compliance

Learners follow directions, absorb content, and adopt behaviors and ways of thinking without question, motivated primarily by external rewards or fear of consequences.

Extraordinary Learning

Whole-Child Focus

Learning nurtures every young person's mind, body, and heart, promoting holistic development and well-being.

Connection & Community

All learners are part of a supportive community where they form meaningful, collaborative relationships with peers and adults and are deeply known, appreciated, and respected for who they are while also embracing the uniqueness of others.

High Expectations with Rigorous Learning

Every learner is treated as capable of excellence with access to appropriately challenging tasks that deepen understanding, broaden perspectives, strengthen higher-order thinking, and help them apply learning in new situations.

Relevance

Learning connects to young people's life experiences, interests, goals, and prior knowledge, as well as to real opportunities and challenges in their local community and beyond.

Customization

Learners experience flexibility in the focus, pace, setting, and sequence of learning, as well as variability in the resources and supports provided, ensuring each learner can succeed.

Agency

Learners take charge of their experience in meaningful, developmentally appropriate ways, and through this, they all have opportunities to impact both their life path and the world around them.