



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Ministry of Science
and Education



WILL THE PANDEMIC CHANGE SCHOOLS?

TEACHERS AND TRAINERS FOR THE FUTURE

Towards the 'New Normal'

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"This pandemic puts a stark light on an emerging truth—education as we know it is over, and we must think of 'school' in deeply different ways."

- Linda Darling-Hammond

Two scenarios

1. Temporary disruption → Return back to normal

2. Irreversible change → Recreating schools, teaching and learning

Scenario 1: Temporary disruption & back to basics

Distance learning

More with less

Equal access



Well-being

Professional development

Scenario 2: Irreversible “New Deal” for Education

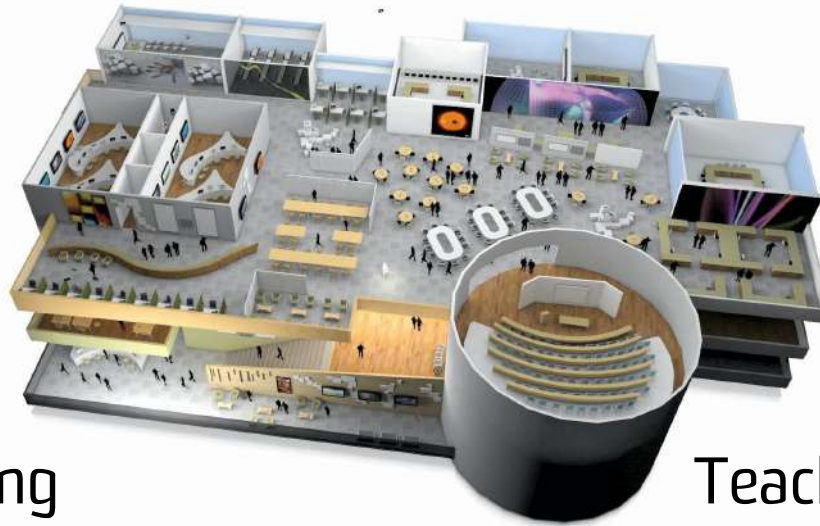
Authentic learning

Formative assessment

Equity of outcomes

Well-being

Teacher professionalism



FIVE LESSONS FOR THE POST-PANDEMIC EDUCATION

1. Don't think that kids only learn when they are taught

Most likely there will be more students than we think who learn beyond expectations when they have peace and quiet to do so in their own ways.



2. Don't worry about kids' losses on school tests

While school is important, non-academic skills such as work habits, sports related competences, social skills, leadership, and locus of control are more powerful than academic skills (e.g. literacy and numeracy) in life outcomes.



3. Don't expect kids to be ready to continue where they were left off

While social distancing has been the tool that helps 'flatten the curve,' moving forward students now need three new 'R's' at school: *Relationships*. *Responsiveness*. *Respect*. Only after that can a renewed 'learning curve' begin.



4. Don't consider play as a low priority

Play and free time during school days may be the cheapest, easiest and most effective way to help students to learn communication, problem-solving, self-regulation and empathy that helps them to cope with anxiety and fear caused by the pandemic.



5. Don't expect a change will come with the old mindsets about change

- Schools will not change without courageous political leadership and bold and brave shifts in mindsets as to how that change happens:
 - From one-size-for-all standards to flexible, diverse and self-directed ideas to diverse learners and communities;
 - From compliance and alignment to trust in teacher and student leadership;
 - From consuming knowledge in school to co-creating new worlds and ideas for life;
- Transforming schools should rely less on policy-driven reforms and more on the visionary leadership of principals, professional wisdom of the teachers, and passionate engagement of students as change-makers.

“The power of the traditional model of education is so strong that even when it is completely disrupted by the current global health crisis, most students experience learning from home the same way as they do at school.”

Thank you!

"Will the Pandemic Change Schools?" published in Journal of Professional Capital and Community (2020).

