

## Viewing:

Let's Change  
Education Together

– Rick Wormeli

Changing Education  
Paradigms

– Ken Robinson

Student Engagement  
Today

– A.J. Juliani

*Our job is not to  
prepare students  
for something.  
Our job is to help  
students prepare  
themselves for  
anything.*

~ A.J. Juliani

## EDUCATION TODAY - A SHIFT IN MINDSET

The phrase “that was then, this is now” is very appropriate when we speak in terms of the shift in education. Over the past 120 years, the education system was built upon an industrial model, which reflected the dynamics within society with a one-size-fits-all, factory approach. In historical times, only a few people were recognized as the “keepers of knowledge”. The current reality however, is that we have moved from the post-industrial era to an information age, whereby our students are exposed to, and have access to, an abundance of knowledge. However, it is vital that we equip our students with the skills, values and characteristics they will need to thrive within modern society.

In the past, schools prepared K-12 students to read and write, along with topics that could help them in everyday lives such as history and mathematics. The education system emphasized rote memorization, drill and practice and judged students by their ability to recall facts on multiple-choice exams and/or quizzes. This is no longer the case; students will need to be exposed to a world of life-long learning. Students will not only need to be good at doing math, but also have the ability to do something with the math and knowledge they have learned, challenging them to think deeper and work towards application that is more meaningful.

The world looks different, and as the rest of the world changes, schools need to continue to provide students with the foundational skills by providing a delivery model that addresses these changes. In terms of the job market, employees could spend a few weeks of “on-the-job training” and then be ready for a lifetime of work without the need for re-education or training. As we examine our current reality, this is no longer the world in which we live. Jobs and/or careers for which individuals may be trained will be changing all the time.

The current transition in schools is towards a model of schools as learning organizations, as they continue to learn and evolve. (G. Couros, 2016). In the past, schools were set up in a way where individuals became dependent on someone else telling them how to go about their learning. However, it is now necessary to empower students so they are able to find their own voice and explore their passions and interests as life-long learners.