

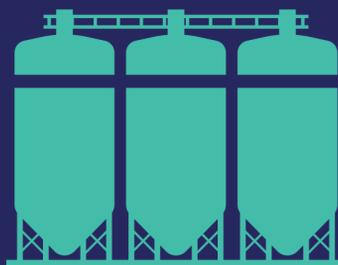
the continuum of learning and why it's broken (!)

People for Education is leading a cross-sector dialogue, the Future of Public Education Initiative, to support change in public education. A key component includes laying the groundwork for the Continuum of Learning, from early childhood education to K-12 to postsecondary or the world of work, to identify what policies and practices it will take to prepare all students to be successful.

Here is what our working group of experts are saying are the key challenges of the status quo.

1 We live and work in silos

Very few individuals work on the entire continuum, and often the people in each sector believe that they're doing just fine. However, if this were the case, then everyone would have equal access.



2 Lack of access

How can the continuum exist when most people cannot afford or access early childhood and/or postsecondary education?

3 No common understanding



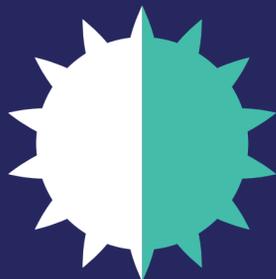
Play-based learning, global competencies, future-ready skills—we are all having separate conversations about the same thing: how do we support all individuals in developing transferable skills across the continuum that will set them up for success?

4 A narrow view of the individual

Development is not only individual, but it is collective and social. How do we recognize the roles of family, community, culture, and history as we work together to build this continuum?



5 Re-active, not pro-active



Conversations are focused on how to "fill the gaps", "smooth transitions", and "address inequities", but these are by-products of a flawed system design. The system needs to be deconstructed, reimagined, and rebuilt.

It's time for the conversation to change

Instead of talking about how to **fix** the system, it's time to start talking about how we **change** the system. People for Education is convening diverse perspectives in an effort to develop concrete policy-ready ideas about how we can build and strengthen a continuum of learning.