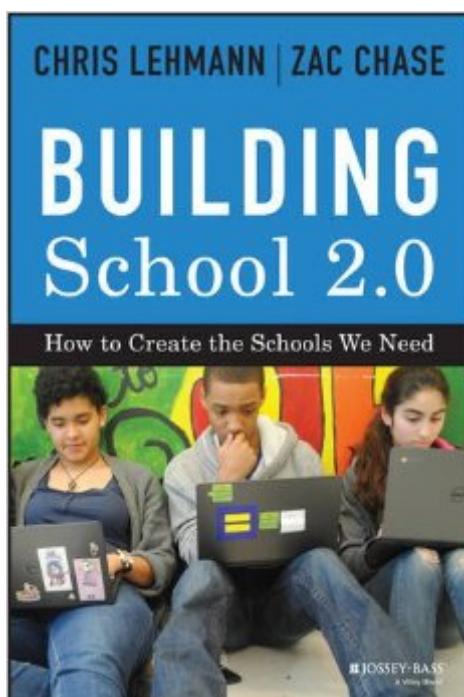# Building School 2.0: How To Create The Schools We Need

Synopsis

Ninety-five propositions for creating more relevant, more caring schools There is a growing desire to reexamine education and learning. Educators use the phrase "school 2.0" to think about what schools will look like in the future. Moving beyond a basic examination of using technology for classroom instruction, Building School 2.0: How to Create the Schools We Need is a larger discussion of how education, learning, and our physical school spaces canâ ”and shouldâ ”change because of the changing nature of our lives brought on by these technologies. Well known for their work in creating Science Leadership Academy (SLA), a technology-rich, collaborative, learner-centricÂ school in Philadelphia, founding principal Chris Lehmann and former SLA teacher Zac Chase are uniquely qualified to write about changing how we educate. The best strategies, they contend, enable networked learning that allows research, creativity, communication, and collaboration to help prepare students to be functional citizens within a modern society. Their model includes discussions of the following key concepts: Technology must be ubiquitous, necessary, and invisible Classrooms must be learner-centric and use backwards design principles Good technology can be better than new technology Teachers must serve as mentors and bring real-world experiences to students Each section of Building School 2.0 presents a thesis designed to help educators and administrators to examine specific practices in their schools, and to then take their conclusions from theory to practice. Collectively, the theses represent a new vision of school, built off of the best of what has come before us, but with an eye toward a future we cannot fully imagine.

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Customer Reviews

I can only wish I had the chops to have written Building School 2.0: How to Create the Schools We Need.I read a lot of books, many on the current state and future of K-12 education, best practices of organizational change and innovation, and the nature of creative individuals and organizations. I don't recommend a lot of "must reads"; perhaps 1-2 a year. For two groups--educators who passionately want to implement real transformational change that will immediately benefit their students, and a more general public that recognizes that the fundamental structure of K-12 education fails to meet the needs of the rising generation--this book is a "must, must read".Co-author Chris Lehmann is the founding principal at Science Leadership Academy in Philadelphia; co-author Zac Chase taught English at SLA for eight years and is now an educational consultant. I have met Chris and interacted briefly with him over the past several years, and I cited SLA as an exemplar school in #EdJourney: A Roadmap to the Future of Education. (Disclosure: both books were proudly published by Jossey-Bass, a Wiley brand.) I continue to cite SLA as perhaps the iconic high school in America. It is a public school of choice; serves a highly diverse student population; is housed in an extremely modest physical facility; struggles with the turbid politics and terminal underfunding of a big city school district; and consistently produces graduates who matriculate to a wide range of selective colleges and universities, not because of their test scores (SLA offers no AP courses, for example) but because these kids have learned how to own their own learning and thinking through a rigorous course of work built upon their passions, interests, and understanding of the world in which they live.

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