

# Global Challenges in PreK-12 Education Policy & Implementation

Harvard Graduate School of Education

Robert J. Monson, Ph.D.  
Teachers College, Columbia University  
rjm210@tc.columbia.edu  
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## ***Your presenter ...***

- ***Robert J. Monson is adjunct associate professor of Education Leadership*** at Teachers College, Columbia University and he **coordinates the Education Policy Fellowship Program** in the Department of Education Policy & Social Analysis. He also teaches doctoral courses in strategic leadership and designing systemic programs in professional performance appraisal, coaching, mentoring and learning communities. From 1975 to 2000, he had been in the practice of public school leadership in six states. In 1997, he was a visiting faculty member at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He has co-authored two books on performance assessment and published more than 25 articles on literacy, assessment, professional development and leadership. Professor Monson has served as a consultant to the University of Cambridge International Education as well as to schools and ministries of education in Argentina, Bhutan, China, Dubai, India and Nicaragua. In 1975, he completed his Ph.D. in educational administration at Saint Louis University and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1977.
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# Our objectives in this session....

- Establish a global perspective on the challenges confronting education development policy
- Discern trends in the methods countries are using to implement educational development policy
- Examine the challenges countries are facing in implementing STEM education
- Become aware of factors that school leaders can influence in promoting change within schools and communities.



# Cross-cultural assumptions & trends driving education policy

- There is a heightened awareness among policy makers that their countries are now competing in a global environment and that “As our schools go, so goes our country.”
  - Changing work force demands, and supply, are raising awareness that young people need a different kind of education than policy makers received when they were in school.
  - “College and career readiness” is for everyone...but is it?
  - Policy makers are turning to market-driven reform strategies and private sector partnerships to accelerate the pace of reform and improve education at both the P-12 and higher education levels.
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# Lessons Learned: Global Education Policy

Argentina, Bhutan, China, England, Germany, India, Nicaragua, Switzerland, U.A.E.

- Grounding reform policies in free market economics.
  - Providing choices in the types of schools that children may attend.
  - Struggling with limited financial resources while achieving two competing goals for schools: preparing students for higher education & preparing students for skilled occupations.
  - Closing the “creativity gap” by *decreasing emphasis* on standardized testing & *increasing emphasis* on deeper forms of meaningful learning through critical thinking, collaboration and problem solving.
  - Attending to the pastoral care of children.
  - Adjusting practices to keep pace with advances in technology
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# Our view of STEM...

- Where we began in the 1980's = **STEM**
- Where we are headed = STREAM, iSTEM
- Still to be resolved: **Interdisciplinary**

Or

**Integrated**

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# Global Challenges in Implementing STEM...

- **Influential factors at work:**

- ✓ Cultural norms – especially gender norms

- ✓ What should be learned (mix of knowledge & skills)

- ✓ Pedagogical approaches:

  - *Constructivist* (problem-based learning; project-based learning; scientific method; design thinking); and/or

  - *Didactic* (lecture)

- ✓ Dealing with accountability – “*What gets measured, gets done!*”

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# Global Challenges in Implementing STEM

Influential factors at work:

- ✓ Renewed emphasis on the “whole child” & “pastoral care”
  - ✓ Career planning for students (“College & Career Readiness”)
  - ✓ Teacher preparation (Competing demands for increased content knowledge and a broader range of teaching strategies)
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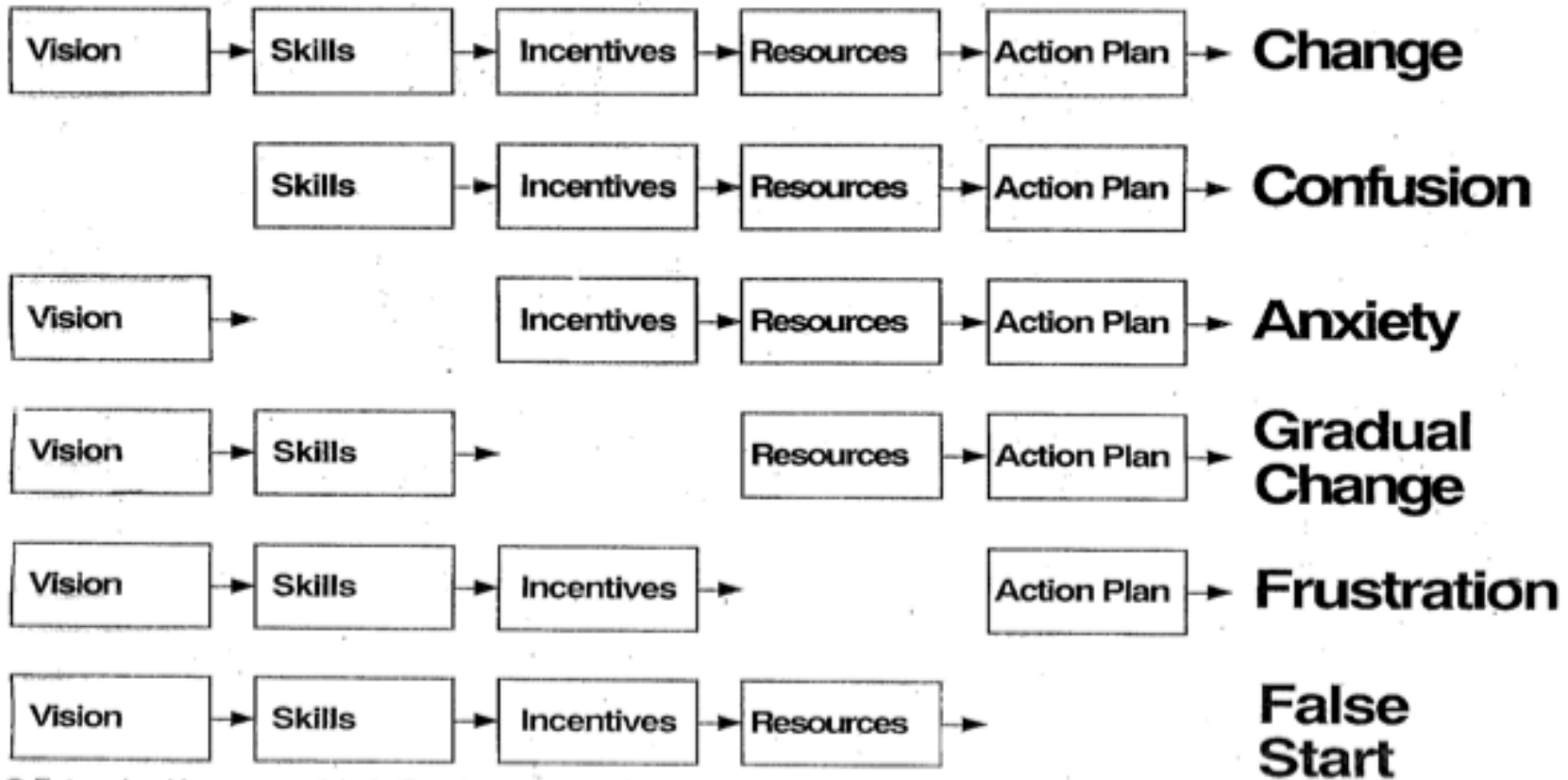


*I hear and I forget.*

*I see and I remember.*

*I do and I understand!*  
Confucius

# Managing Complex Change



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