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How school districts ‘modernize’

As a former White House Fellow, I worked on national workforce development with top U.S. companies to upskill their labor force. And as a current board member of a STEM & Robotics organization, I encourage the next generation to choose technical career paths that will feed directly in to the future workforce. What good is a top ranking, if our students lack the critical skills and technical confidence required to get hired? The job market is tough, and it will only get more competitive as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology advances.

Questions from political group surveys and from parents are mostly focused on polarizing topics, and few are focused on ensuring that school districts are keeping up with AI and with technology to ensure its graduates are competitive for the future job market and the tech-driven workforce.

Most school board members and candidates have former students in the district and/or students in the later years of their education, and therefore, their outlook is *now* through their next term (4 years). As my children enter their education journey, my outlook is the next 15-20 years.

But how do school districts “modernize”?

It is not necessary to raise taxes or re-direct teacher salaries. However, there is value in reaching out to the community to build public-private partnerships. School boards need to think strategically and reach out to local industries that stand to gain from a local innovative and tech savvy labor-pool. By creating innovation centers with project-based learning, students can be exposed to technical career paths early, and be better prepared for the future workforce of America, so that taxpayers and parents see the return on their investments.

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