



Superintendent's HOPE Note - December 2023

The illiterate of the future will not be the person who cannot read. It will be the person who does not know how to learn.—Alvin Toffler

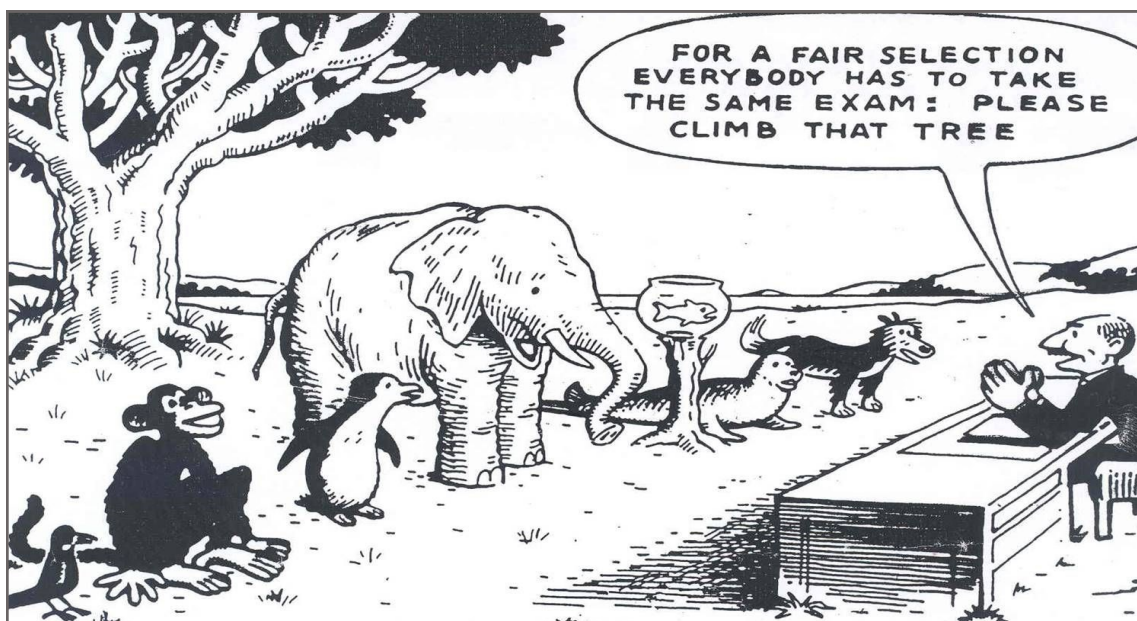
Venti Caramel Macchiatos with Soy Milk and the Myth that One Size Fits All

In 2023, we demand that Starbucks craft our preferred beverage to our unique tastes. We expect an array of meal options through various channels—from drive-thru visits to dining at our preferred restaurant to utilizing services like *DoorDash*. Yet, our educational system expects learners to conform to a single instructional approach, fixed schedule, and uniform pace throughout their 13 years of education. In our pursuit of standardization, our systems have overlooked the distinct talents, learning styles, and needs each student brings to the educational landscape. **This oversight dismisses two essential truths:**

- People learn in diverse ways.
- People learn at different rates.

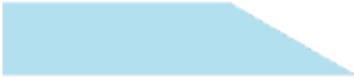
If we acknowledge that people have varied learning styles and paces, how can we anticipate identical outcomes and competencies within a conventional 9-month school year? How do we address learners who fall behind our designated pace? How do we keep already proficient learners engaged? Seat time does not guarantee genuine learning.

Just as Starbucks tailors its offerings, like the Venti Caramel Macchiato with Soy Milk, to suit customer preferences, our instructional approach should be driven by the needs of learners. The moment Starbucks stops customizing orders to meet customer needs marks the day it loses its standing as a leader in the coffee industry. Starbucks recognizes that if they disregard the needs of their customers, they risk becoming obsolete. Corporate and industry leaders are hoping that our educational systems will one day realize this before it's too late. In the Information Age, one size does not fit all.





Learner-Centered Leaps!



Inequitable, Industrial-Era Learning

Irrelevance

Learners have experiences that are disconnected from their interests, their goals, and the real professional and personal challenges and endeavors they encounter in life.

Inequitable, Industrial-Era Learning

Passive Compliance

Learners are expected to passively absorb the knowledge, skills, mindsets, and behaviors modeled and taught by adults and are pushed to comply with rules and routines developed for them through extrinsic rewards and punitive consequences.

Inequitable, Industrial-Era Learning

Rote Activities

Learners engage in memorizing and recalling a broad array of content and are assessed primarily on their ability to recall and explain this information.

Equitable, 21st-Century Learning

Relevance

Learners engage in activities and explore topics relevant to their interests and goals, are connected to their community, enable them to understand and tackle real world problems, and build their ability to see and dismantle injustice.

Equitable, 21st-Century Learning

Active Self-Direction

Learners are active drivers of the learning process; they grapple directly with concepts while receiving adult and peer guidance and support and they have a voice in decisions about how and what they learn, so that the process grows their agency and meaningfully builds on their interests and prior knowledge.

Equitable, 21st-Century Learning

Rigorous Learning

Learners use critical thinking skills to make deep meaning of diverse, complex ideas and are assessed on their ability to apply, analyze, and use their knowledge in creative ways across contexts.



A rigid, one-size-fits-all approach usually ends up fitting no one.

-Patrick Lencioni



Piece of the Puzzle

This month, we extend our appreciation to our Cafeteria Staff for their dedicated efforts and patience in serving our learners. Their kindness, care, and helpfulness shine through as they assist students in the lunch line, and their respect for each other is commendable. The collaborative spirit is evident in their teamwork, to prepare meals, serve and keep our facilities clean. Kudos to everyone for demonstrating efficiency and a positive attitude in getting the job done. You truly deserve this recognition. Great job, everyone!

