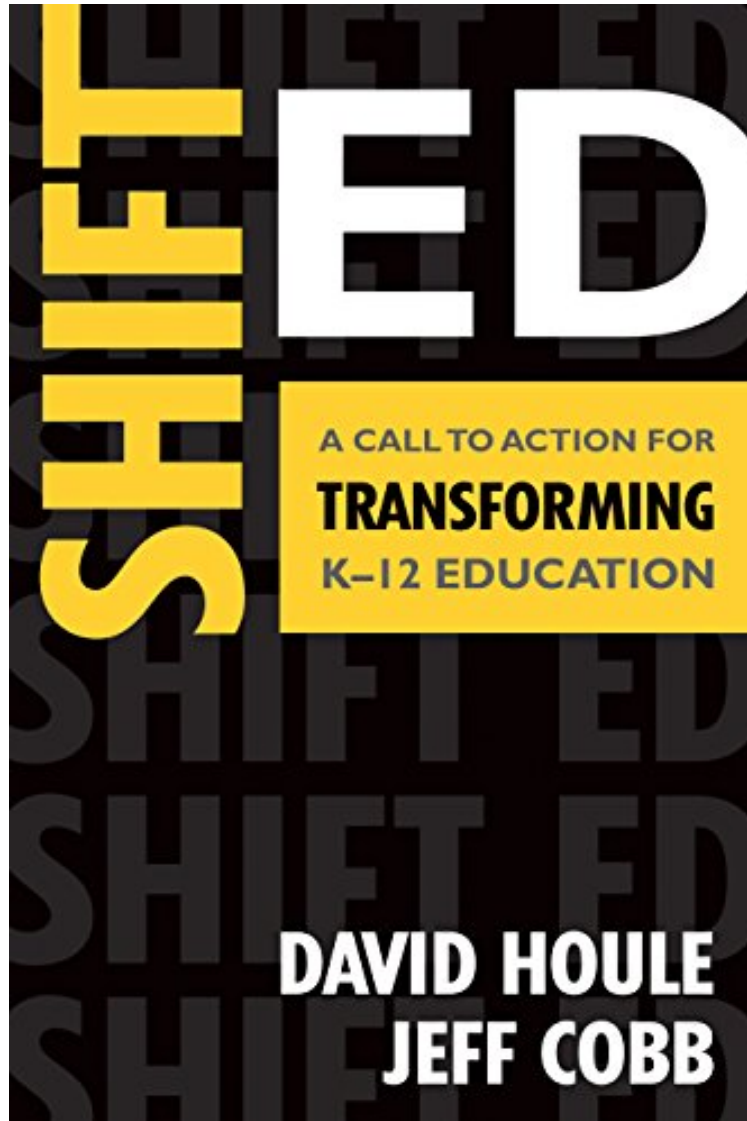


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Shift Ed: A Call to Action for Transforming Kndash;12 Education

David E. Houle, Jeff T. Cobb

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David E. Houle, Jeff T. Cobb : Shift Ed: A Call to Action for Transforming Kndash;12 Education before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shift Ed: A Call to Action for Transforming Kndash;12 Education:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The future is NOW!By Dr Neil MacNeillHoule Cobb (2011), ShiftED.Wow, what a thought provoking book! It seemed that the futurists had run their race with the fin-de-siegrave;cle brouhaha at the turn of the century and millennium. However, this book puts their ideas back into focus for us.Houle and Cobb deliberately crash into the myths that have been erected to maintain the status quo in education. In a relative sense, it is the speed of societal change that has made schools appear resistant to change. Houle and Cobb

(2011, quoting Toffler Toffler) claimed that schools are changing at 10 miles per hour, while companies are changing at 100 miles per hour. (p. 17) Furthermore, the situation in education is terminal because "(d)esigned for mass production, operated like factories, managed bureaucratically, protected by powerful trade unions and politicians dependent on teachers' votes, America's schools are perfect reflections of the early twentieth-century economy". (p. 17) While I think their book is worth 5 stars, the authors make the classic mistake in seeing explicit teaching and constructivism as a dichotomy. Those of us involved in teaching and learning know that both approaches have their strengths and weakness, and they should be seen as complementary, not as a part of a false dichotomy. Explicit teaching provides the best key to the doors of future learning for all students and we find that constructivism is great for the middle class kids who are going to learn anyway, but for the majority of students, teacher help is needed with literacy and numeracy. The book provides an excellent start for a discussion about what we should be teaching, and how we should teach it so that our students are well placed as future changes unfold around them.

A comprehensive guide to transforming American schools Futurist David Houle and educational strategist Jeff Cobb issue a "call to action" to everyone who is concerned about education in America. He argues that reinventing our system is inevitable and we already have the information and capabilities to make the necessary changes. Shift Ed challenges us to ask the right questions, expand our vision, and take action now. The book includes an overview of the educational system and expert opinions on key areas, including: Technology and connectivity Organizational behavior Curriculum Learning and the brain Infrastructure and the physical plant