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Introduction: Why Learning Must Go Deeper 1

Breadth versus depth—it’s an old struggle. Stop struggling. Go with depth. It’s the only way to engage students in the present and to prepare them for their futures.

1 Transforming the Graduate 19
Everything maps backward from a redefinition of what it means to graduate from high school. Know, do, reflect: our unified theory.

2 Designing a Standards-Aligned Performance Assessment System 41
A school that is dedicated to deeper learning is a school that has established a coherent, schoolwide, standards-aligned performance assessment system. We explain what this means, why it’s vital, and how to work toward this challenging but transformative goal.

3 Project-Based Learning—It’s the How (and the Why) 65
Learning is deepest when it culminates in an act of creation. As we walk through an example project, we show how PBL is the most effective and efficient means to our ends: preparing students for rigorous performance assessments, meeting state standards, and, most important, making learning matter to students.
4 Transforming School Culture
Transforming the lives of students requires a culture that believes it's possible. We describe how to nurture a culture for deeper learning.

5 Transforming School Systems
Without supporting structures, a school's mission is talk without action. We outline the school structures that sustain deeper learning, including advisory, project-based scheduling, common planning time, community meetings, student internships, and grading.

6 Leadership for Deeper Learning
As stewards of the school's mission, leaders must ensure integrity and consistency through all the layers of the organization. Here we offer philosophical and practical advice on how to lead a school through transformative change.

7 A Call to Action
A movement is a small step taken by many people. Here are three ways to take a first step toward deeper learning.

Appendix: Supplementary Material
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About the DVD-ROM