

# AT A GLANCE

## OUR MISSION

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*Facing the Future* develops young people's capacity and commitment to create thriving, sustainable and peaceful local and global communities.

We do this by equipping teachers and schools with the tools and strategies to help students:

- *Understand global issues and sustainability in a way that shows the connections between population, environment, consumption, poverty and conflict*
- *Develop a global perspective*
- *Learn critical thinking skills*
- *Be inspired to take personal action*

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO – THE PROBLEM WE'RE SOLVING

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The focus on K -12 education right now is on core subjects - reading, writing, science, and math. Teachers face decreasing resources and increasing requirements to focus on student test improvements in these subjects.

While teachers are focusing on core subjects, students today are overwhelmed and often rendered hopeless with the world and their place in it. Programs exist to help students learn about the world, but these programs can be cost-prohibitive and typically reach only a small percentage of students. In our increasingly complex world, it is crucial that *all* students learn how to understand and think critically and hopefully about the world around them.

## OUR SUCCESS

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1. *Facing the Future* materials are currently in use in all 50 U.S. states and more than 60 countries.
2. Since 1995 we have grown to reach over 500,000 students per year.
3. After two years of an intensive focus program in Washington State, we have already reached 20% of the public schools here and a number of independent schools.
4. Our materials are widely used across all subject areas including math, science, reading, social studies, language arts, history, economics, English as a Second Language, advanced classes and remedial classes of all types.

## EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

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We have heavily assessed our program and have [statistically significant] outcomes including:

1. Over 93% of teachers believe our program increases students' critical thinking skills

2. Our program is effective at bringing basic sustainability concepts, critical thinking and the connections among global issues to students (as measured by student pre- and post-testing)
  - Results from our tests show that students from low-income families achieve as well as those from higher-income families after exposure to our program
3. Students' belief and hopefulness that they can make positive impacts in their own communities and the world are greatly increased (by over 300%)

Find more outcomes on our website at [www.facingthefuture.org](http://www.facingthefuture.org)

## **WHY WE ARE SUCCESSFUL**

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1. Our program does the one thing that teachers and parents want as much as anything for their children: it highly engages them. Our hands-on lessons help students understand complex global issues in a fun and relevant way.
2. Our materials are flexible- teachers can use them as stand-alone global studies or easily incorporate them into other courses.
3. Our materials are written by and for teachers, and reviewed by teachers, students and content experts.
4. Our staff of seven is highly credentialed, committed and creative.
5. We have a strong and dedicated board of directors and an involved Advisory Council that includes respected teachers and experts.
6. Our materials are educational standards-based, easy for teachers to use, carefully referenced, and non-partisan.
7. We design our programs to reach all students: the cost per student is less than \$2.00.

## **HOW WE DO IT**

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1. Develop curricula, including teacher's guides and student texts used in middle schools, high schools and colleges. This curricula
  - Is standards-based (links to state and national educational standards)
  - Highly engages students and is solution-oriented, leaving them feeling positive
  - Used by teachers both as core texts or as supplementary material for core subjects
2. Provide professional development training for teachers
3. Consult to schools and districts to help them integrate global issues and sustainability school-wide
4. Help teachers and schools involve their students in community action opportunities (via "service learning")