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**OUR MISSION**

***Facing the Future*** (FTF) engages students in learning by making academics relevant to their lives. We empower students to think critically, develop a global perspective, and participate in positive solutions for a sustainable future.

**THE NEED**

Today's students are tomorrow's voters, decision-makers and leaders. What they know will in large measure determine what the future holds. After all, complex, interconnected global challenges have no silver bullet solution, nor will they be solved on our watch. This increases the urgency of equipping all students with the knowledge and tools they need to become better stewards of tomorrow's world.

But even as our world becomes more complex and interdependent, teachers often lack the support, time, and training to integrate learning that helps students think critically about big challenges or envision how their actions can contribute to lasting solutions. The out-of-school programs that do bring a global perspective and understanding about sustainability to students, such as travel-abroad or weeks-in-the- woods programs, are typically too expensive to scale to the larger population, or even to a significant minority. FTF resources are designed to equip **all** students, not just those identified as leaders, with the basic tools to be informed global citizens.

**THE STRATEGY**

***Facing the Future*** develops hands-on, supplemental curriculum resources using global sustainability issues as the context for teaching/learning core academics. Through math, science, social studies and English Language Learner curriculum resources, students are immersed in the interplay of big issues like conflict and consumption, trade and population growth, the environment, climate change, and human migration. Students may explore proportions, percents and probability by focusing on global health, or examine the tragedy of the commons through an ocean fisheries exercise. They might develop a mock micro-credit grant application to start a small business in a developing country assuming the characteristics and concerns of someone living there. All of the resources have service learning components so students can participate in positive, personal solutions.

**THE IMPACT**

Teachers adopt and use the curriculum because it engages their students, and we know that learning requires engagement. Ninety-six percent of students increased their understanding of complex global sustainability issues, 88% of teachers see an increase in student engagement in the classroom, 95% of teachers report an increase in students' critical thinking skills, 81% of teachers report an increase in students' belief that they can make a difference in their community and 92% of teachers feel more confident teaching global sustainability issues in the classroom. All curricula include fully planned lessons with thoughtful assessment rubrics and are aligned to national and state education standards.

***Facing the Future's*** reach has swelled fivefold in recent years, from less than 300,000 students a year in 2005 to more than 1.5 million students in 2010. FTF resources benefit students at all learning levels, in all types of schools (75% are public schools) and in a wide range of rural, urban and suburban communities in all 50 U.S. states and more than 125 countries for less than \$2 per student. FTF is on track to reach 12.5 million students each year by 2020.