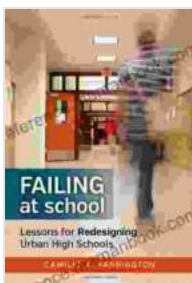


Lessons For Redesigning Urban High Schools: A Series On School Reform

The redesign of urban high schools is a complex and challenging undertaking, but it is essential for ensuring that all students have access to a high-quality education that prepares them for college, career, and life. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the lessons learned from the redesign of urban high schools, as part of a series on school reform. It explores the challenges and opportunities encountered in rethinking and restructuring urban high schools, with a focus on creating equitable and effective learning environments for all students.

Challenges of Redesigning Urban High Schools

There are a number of challenges associated with redesigning urban high schools. These challenges include:



Failing at School: Lessons for Redesigning Urban High Schools (series on school reform) by Camille A. Farrington

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- **Overcoming the legacy of inequity.** Urban high schools have historically been underfunded and understaffed, and they have often served a disproportionate number of students from low-income families and students of color. This legacy of inequity has created a number of challenges for urban high schools, including high dropout rates, low graduation rates, and low college enrollment rates.
- **Meeting the needs of diverse learners.** Urban high schools serve a diverse population of students, with a wide range of needs. These students may come from different cultural backgrounds, speak different languages, and have different learning styles. Redesigning urban high schools must take into account the needs of all students, and it must create learning environments that are welcoming and supportive for all.
- **Engaging students in learning.** Many urban high school students are disengaged from learning. They may feel that school is irrelevant to their lives, or they may not have the support they need to succeed. Redesigning urban high schools must find ways to engage students in learning, and it must create learning experiences that are relevant to their lives and their futures.
- **Preparing students for college and career.** Urban high schools must prepare students for college and career. This means providing students with a rigorous academic education, as well as the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in college and the workforce. Redesigning urban high schools must focus on college and career readiness, and it must create pathways that lead to postsecondary success.

Opportunities for Redesigning Urban High Schools

Despite the challenges, there are also a number of opportunities for redesigning urban high schools. These opportunities include:

- **Creating equitable learning environments.** Redesigning urban high schools provides an opportunity to create equitable learning environments for all students. This means providing all students with access to the same high-quality resources and opportunities, regardless of their background or circumstances.
- **Meeting the needs of diverse learners.** Redesigning urban high schools provides an opportunity to meet the needs of diverse learners. This means creating learning environments that are welcoming and supportive for all students, and it means providing students with the resources and support they need to succeed.
- **Engaging students in learning.** Redesigning urban high schools provides an opportunity to engage students in learning. This means creating learning experiences that are relevant to students' lives and their futures, and it means providing students with the support they need to succeed.
- **Preparing students for college and career.** Redesigning urban high schools provides an opportunity to prepare students for college and career. This means providing students with a rigorous academic education, as well as the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in college and the workforce.

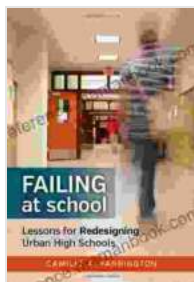
Lessons Learned From Redesigning Urban High Schools

There are a number of lessons that can be learned from the redesign of urban high schools. These lessons include:

- **The importance of stakeholder engagement.** Stakeholder engagement is essential for the successful redesign of urban high schools. This includes engaging students, families, teachers, administrators, and community members in the planning and implementation process.
- **The need for a comprehensive approach.** Redesigning urban high schools requires a comprehensive approach that addresses all aspects of the school, including curriculum, instruction, assessment, and school culture. It is important to take a holistic approach that considers the needs of all stakeholders.
- **The importance of data-driven decision-making.** Data-driven decision-making is essential for the successful redesign of urban high schools. This means using data to inform decisions about curriculum, instruction, assessment, and school culture. It is important to use data to track student progress and to identify areas for improvement.
- **The need for ongoing evaluation.** The redesign of urban high schools is an ongoing process that requires ongoing evaluation. It is important to evaluate the effectiveness of the redesign efforts and to make adjustments as needed. It is also important to celebrate successes and to share lessons learned with others.

The redesign of urban high schools is a complex and challenging undertaking, but it is essential for ensuring that all students have access to a high-quality education that prepares them for college, career, and life. By

learning from the lessons of the past, we can create urban high schools that are equitable, effective, and engaging for all students.



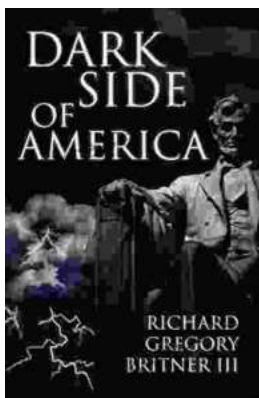
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