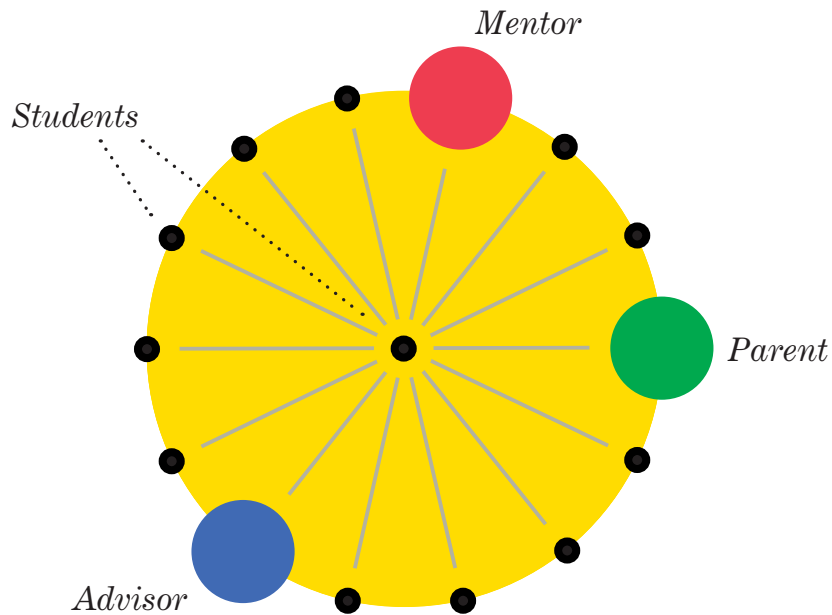


# Why Big Picture Learning Works



# Student as the Center of Learning



## Here's why it works:

1) **The Advisor** works with the 15 member class to find what interests and motivates each student. 2) **The Mentor**, a lawyer, engineer, merchant, etc., guides each student's internship. 3) **The Parent** is actively enrolled as a resource to the Big Picture community. 4) **The Student** (and his fellow students) interact to reinforce each other's passion for real work in the real world. The result is a self-teaching community of learners where no one feels left-out, and each helps motivate the other.

## Big Picture Learning

Big Picture Learning is a nonprofit organization that educates one student at a time within a community of learners. We help young people, including underserved urban students, become lifelong learners, productive workers and engaged human beings. Founded in 1995 by two daring educators Dennis Littky and Elliot Washor, Big Picture Learning is transforming the theory and practice of education.

## Methods and Process

Our school design is built on three basic principles: 1) learning must be based on the interests and goals of each student; 2) curriculum must be relevant to people and places in the real world; 3) students' abilities must be measured by the quality of their work.

## Research and Training

Big Picture Learning does not own schools or manage school charters. We work with social entrepreneurs, philanthropists and public officials to adapt our school design to meet the needs of specific school districts. We train the educators and provide support for school operations and management. We continually innovate and test tools and techniques to make our schools better.

## Our Schools

All our schools are public schools and some operate as public charter schools. In America, Big Picture Learning supports more than 60 schools in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington and Washington DC. Globally, Big Picture Learning is growing in Australia and the Netherlands. There are also plans for our schools in Canada, Ireland, Israel, Liberia and the United Kingdom.

## Measuring Success

Big Picture Learning works. All across America, our high school graduation rate is 92% with 95% accepted to college. Compare these high school graduation rates for regular schools in major cities: Chicago – 51%, Denver – 46%, Detroit – 25%, Los Angeles – 45% and New York – 45%.

## The Future

We plan to open and sustain more Big Picture Learning schools in America and around the world. We will continue to refine components of our school design. Every lesson learned through our research and practice will give us added leverage to influence public policy.

Learn more at  
[www.bigpicture.org](http://www.bigpicture.org)

## Learning: The Conventional Way



### Top-Down Teaching

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Huge classes with teacher as center,  
students as audience

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Curriculum taught from textbooks

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Inhibits motivation

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Teaches entire class as a single group

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Many high schools have over 1,000 students

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Parents only occasionally involved

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All teaching happens in classroom

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Works for many

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Graduation rate **52%**

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College acceptance rate **45%**

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## Learning: The Big Picture Way



### Student as the Center of Learning

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Small classes of 15,  
run by Advisor-Student-Parent-Mentor teams

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Curriculum always relevant to the real world

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Increases motivation

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Teaches one student at a time

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Each high school has only 140 students

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Parents an intimate part of the teaching

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Students go into the real world to pursue projects

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Works for many more

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Our graduation rate **92%**

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Our college acceptance rate **95%**

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