



This page is an archive of CES's Year of Demonstration, our theme for our final year of operations in 2016.

While the dream of personalized, equitable, and intellectually challenging schools for every student has yet to be realized, in every state there are schools, teachers and students that have created just these kinds of learning environments for themselves and for one another. We need your help to elevate stirring examples of the kind of schools that enable the greatest hope for democracy. Our nation needs those voices – your voices – now and we are engaging in a year of activities to elevate the work of progressive educators in the United States.

The Coalition of Essential Schools and The Common Principles

For more than 30 years, the [Common Principles](#) of the Coalition of Essential Schools (CES) have guided the design of schools and the daily work of educators to engage, inspire, and educate students in every type of community across our nation and around the world. The principles have helped define student-centered, democratic, progressive teaching and learning in schools affiliated with the Coalition of Essential Schools and in classrooms and community organizations that span many other networks.

Three decades after these principles were created by [CES founder TedSizer](#), in collaboration with educators, our nation has drifted further toward standardized forms of assessment and teaching. Yet schools and classrooms continue to use, with tremendous results, the democratic, student-centered practice the Common Principles, and other important progressive writings, espouse. We are spending this year documenting the impact of these ideas in our schools. We hope everyone whose lives have been touched by CES directly and indirectly will find ways to be involved in the 2016 Year of Demonstration. Together, we will imagine new ways to promote the shared principles of progressive education.