



Education Challenges

Winter 2016

Improve Accountability in Education

Student testing can be used to create a school-wide score card, and when made public help hold educational institutions accountable to parents and students. Create testing-based scorecards for 20 schools in a three-month pilot, with a vision to rate schools nationwide and drive country-wide accountability within two years. A successful model will be evidence-based, will include continuous monitoring and testing, and a commitment to change if evidence suggests your approach is not working.

The Problem: Accountability in educational institutions is woefully inadequate. In sub-Saharan Africa, almost a third of children remain illiterate even after five years of education.¹ As of 2015, 30 percent of sub-Saharan African youth are illiterate, compared to 0 percent in the majority of other global regions.² The root cause of low-quality and inequitable public services is often weak accountability.³

The Proven Solution: One proven solution is to increase information about school performance, and to make this information accessible to the public. A citizen report card works by gathering data on the effectiveness of an educational system, and sharing the results with key stakeholders (e.g., parents, school management, public officials).

Report cards create change by publicly rewarding good performance, and shaming poor performance. Over a five-year period, 30 percent of schools in Bangalore noted an increase in school infrastructure due to scorecards.⁴ Since then, report cards have been proven effective in India, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, and the Philippines.⁵

Your Challenge: We will award up to \$20,000 to a social entrepreneur who can launch an organization that tests student and school performance, and makes the information publicly available to local communities. Your three-month pilot should target scorecards for at least 20 schools, with a vision to rate schools nationwide and drive country-wide accountability within two years.

¹ <http://www.brookings.edu/research/interactives/africa-learning-barometer>

² <http://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Documents/fs32-2015-literacy.pdf>

³ <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1298568319076/makingschoolswork.pdf>

⁴ "Citizen Report Cards" page 43, Box 2.3. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1298568319076/makingschoolswork.pdf>

⁵ *ibid*

Because the effectiveness of a flipped classroom depends on external variables, you must have a localized plan that can manage uncertainty, including:

- An evidence-based model which identifies the strongest factors limiting quality educational access, specific to the region in which you will operate
- An evidenced-based model of how and why your intervention will boost educational learning outcomes in the long run
- A plan for continuous testing and evaluation of the program
- A commitment to change the plan if the evidence suggests that the approach isn't working

Market Information:

- A winning idea will likely have two components: collecting data through testing, and making information available for public consumption. Testing should be based off of already-successful models, fit with any already-existing testing in the country, and be cost effective to administer.
- After testing, results should be distributed in a way that will create the most amount of change (for example, by sharing results with student's parents). "Making Schools Work, a Human Development Perspective report by the World Bank offers several robust frameworks for data collection and public reporting.⁶
- Past winners of this challenge include [Arvind Nagarajan](#) (India), [M-Lesson](#) (Kenya).

Ready To Start?

Download a First Round Application Packet at www.d-prize.org/application.pdf

Questions? Email the D-Prize team at help@d-prize.org

⁶ <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1298568319076/makingschoolswork.pdf>