



# Democratic Schools, Second Edition: Lessons in Powerful Education

*Michael Apple, James Beane*

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**Democratic Schools, Second Edition: Lessons in Powerful Education** Michael Apple, James Beane  
Every once in a while, with the passage of time, a classic book takes on even greater relevance. The first edition of *Democratic Schools* was praised by legions of education professionals for showing how to create schools and classrooms with democratic values in mind; it was hailed for its clear-eyed assessment of the important role schools continue to play in promoting democracy, its traditions, and its thinking. Now an expanded and updated edition of *Democratic Schools* arrives, increasingly relevant in a time of inequitable accountability-based reform, standardized assessments, and cookie-cutter curricula. Michael Apple and James Beane return to challenge reform movements such as No Child Left Behind by asserting that our schools have a vital and historic connection to the continued success of our democratic way of life.

*Democratic Schools*, Second Edition, shows in detail how educators can make a lasting difference by combining authentic, important lessons and a consistent, building- or system-wide focus on a critical and democratic education. Apple and Beane once more convene seven of America's most creative democratic educators for a powerful conversation about how to build an education that is worthy of our highest ideals.

The essays that made the first edition so potent are here in their entirety, each followed by brand-new retrospective insight from their writers, educators who have proven that teachers and administrators can bring the nation's most noble values to life every day. Contributors include:

- Michael W. Apple
- James A. Beane
- Bob Peterson
- Brian D. Schultz
- Barbara L. Brodhagen
- Larry Rosenstock
- Adria Steinberg
- Deborah Meier
- Paul Schwarz.

Grounded in a robust understanding of democracy, education, and the exigencies of our political and social systems, the second edition of *Democratic Schools* goes beyond updating and expanding the stories of the schools it originally chronicled. It adds new material - including a brand new chapter from Apple and Beane - that provides crucial lessons for creating and sustaining democratic schools, and that once again inspires teachers, administrators, and educational leaders to adopt ways of framing their mission that can create and sustain our democratic way of life - even in these difficult times.

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