

# **Fatigued by School Reform: A Book Talk with Jack Jennings**

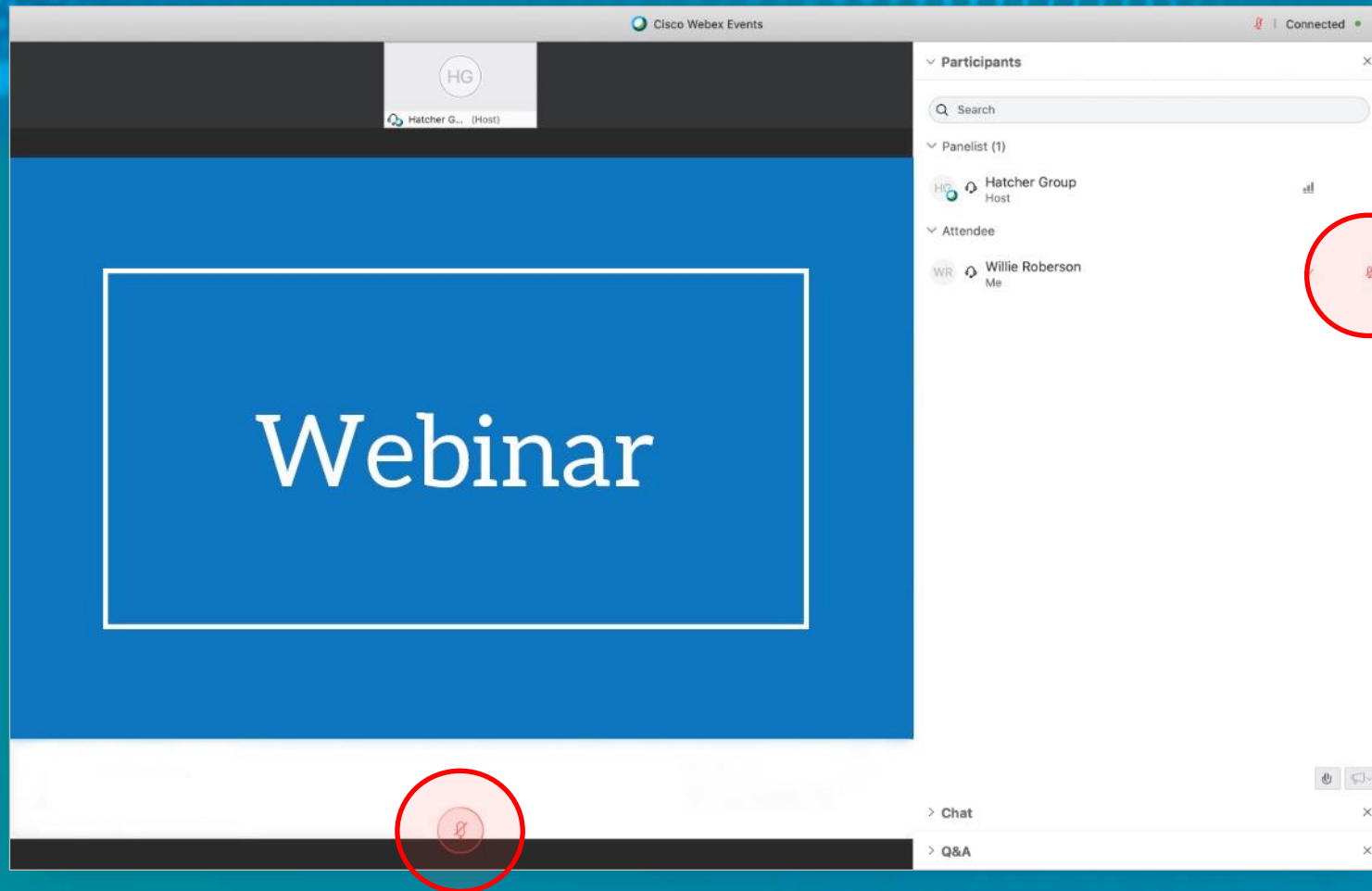
*Welcome! The webinar will begin shortly!*



# **Fatigued by School Reform: A Book Talk with Jack Jennings**

June 4, 2020

# Before we begin...





# Before we begin...

The screenshot displays the Cisco Webex Events interface. The main stage area is blue with the word "Webinar" in white. Above the stage, a header bar shows the host "Hatcher G... (Host)" and a dropdown menu set to "Viewing Wallace Res...". The right sidebar contains several panels: "Participants" (showing "Hatcher Group Host" and "Willie Roberson Me"), "Chat" (with a message from Willie Roberson to Host at 7:22 PM asking "Will the webinar be recorded?"), and "Q&A" (showing a question from Willie Roberson at 7:25pm: "How should nonprofits navigate COVID-19?"). The bottom toolbar includes icons for microphone, video, chat, and a red 'X' icon. Three red circles highlight the chat icon in the bottom toolbar, the "Chat" panel header, and the "Q&A" panel header.

Cisco Webex Events

Connected

HG  
Hatcher G... (Host)

Viewing Wallace Res...

Webinar

Participants

Panelist (1)

Hatcher Group  
Host

Attendee

Willie Roberson  
Me

Chat

from Willie Roberson to Host (privately): 7:22 PM  
Will the webinar be recorded?

Send to: Host

Enter chat message here

Q&A

All(1) My Q&A(1)

Willie Roberson - 7:25pm  
Q: How should nonprofits navigate COVID-19?

Ask: All Panelists

Select a participant in the ask menu first and type your question here. There is a 256 character limit.

# Before we begin...

Connected

Participants

Search

Panelist (1)

Hatcher Group  
Host

Attendee

Willie Roberson  
Me

Chat

Send to: **Host**  
Presenter  
Host & Presenter  
All Panelists  
Hatcher Group

Q&A

All(0)

Ask: Hatcher Group

Select a participant in the ask menu first and type your question here.  
There is a 256 character limit.

Connected

Participants

Search

Panelist (1)

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Host

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Chat

Q&A

All(0)

Host  
Presenter  
Host & Presenter  
All Panelists  
Hatcher Group

Ask: Hatcher Group

How should nonprofits navigate COVID-19?

Connected

Participants

Search

Panelist (1)

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Chat

from Willie Roberson to Host (privately): 7:25 PM  
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Q&A

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Q: How should nonprofits navigate COVID-19?

Ask: All Panelists

Select a participant in the ask menu first and type your question here.  
There is a 256 character limit.

# Our Speakers



**Jack Jennings**

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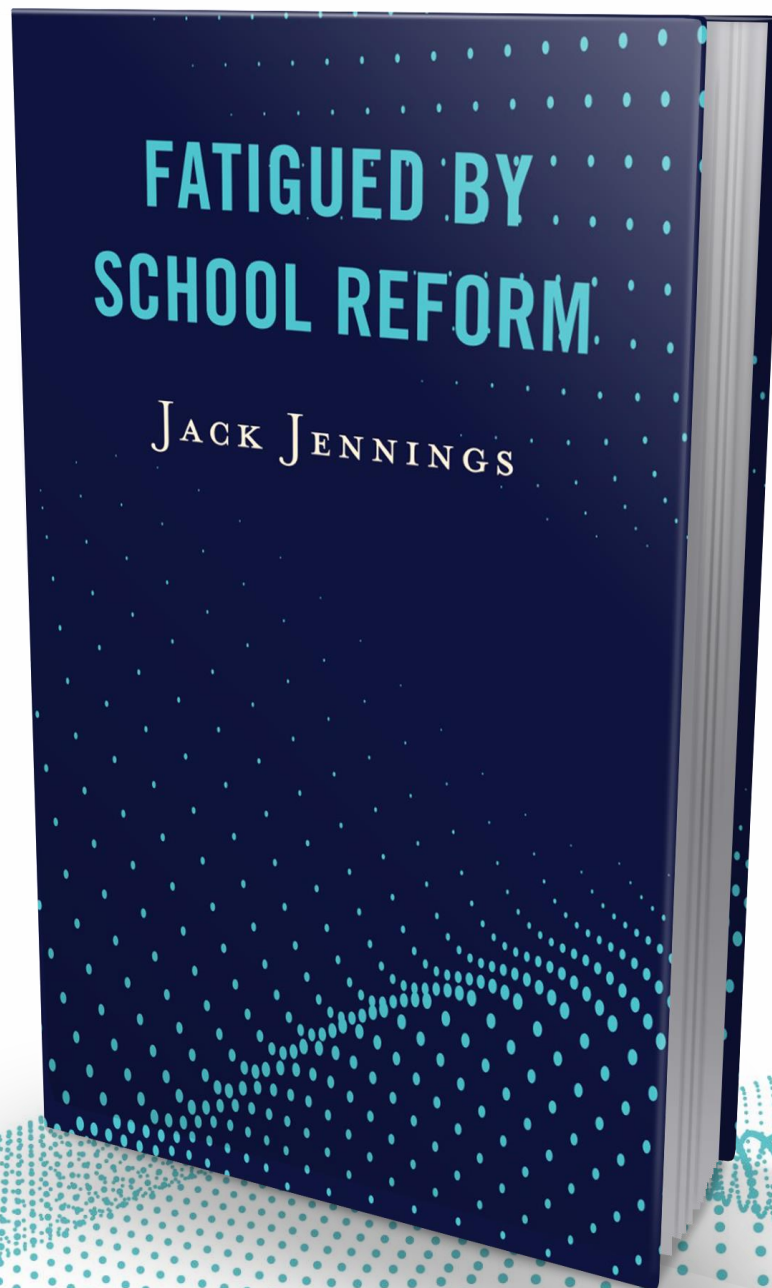
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 **#FatiguedByReform**



# *Fatigued by School Reform\** A Discussion

June 4 , 2020

Jack Jennings

\*Published by Rowman and Littlefield (2020)



# Questions

- Why do a majority of Americans think schools today are worse than when they attended?
- After 50 years of school reform, why isn't student achievement higher?



# The Plan

- The Coleman Report
- Four major reforms in 50 years
- These reforms viewed through the Coleman lens



# Four Major School Reforms

- **Equity** (1960s-1970s)
- **Standards and Tests** (1980s-1990s)
- **Accountability** (2000-2015)
- **Choice** (1992-2020)





# Equity Reform

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Bilingual Education Act, Title IX, etc. State laws, foundation grants.
- Equity's objective was to include the excluded—poor, disabled, non-English speaking, etc. Also women in colleges, sports, etc.
- Successful in inclusion but not always in greater student achievement.



# Standards Reform

- Objective to raise student achievement through higher goals.
- All states have academic standards, & 40 have—in whole or in part—the same standards.
- This movement was captured by test-based reform.





# Accountability Reform

- No Child Left Behind Act: goal, deadlines, penalties in failing schools.
- Based mostly on controversial Texas' accountability system.
- Growing opposition & no major increased national test scores led to turn-over to states with few federal requirements.





# Choice Reform

- Vouchers using tax dollars for tuition at private schools began in Milwaukee in 1992. Charter schools and tax provisions followed.
- Twenty-four states & DC have choice. Only 6% of students in charters. U.S. Supreme Court ruled vouchers constitutional.
- Charters & vouchers showed no advantage for similar students.



# The Coleman Report (1966)

- First, deep view of public schools. Unrefuted by attacks.
- Parental background by far best indicator of a child's progress in school.
- Teacher quality, best seen in cognitive ability and verbal skills, is most important in-school factor.





# Coleman's Judgement

- Coleman might well say that these changes may make schooling better but they have not affected the major indicator, parental background, and maybe not the second, teacher quality.
- Therefore, these improvements will not likely significantly raise student achievement.





# Parental Background

- My proposals to implement Coleman's findings.
- Parental engagement in schools—proven to help children to overcome their economic & social disadvantages.
- Children with low social-economic backgrounds benefit from good pre-school, after school, and summer programs.



# Teacher Quality

- Coleman: high verbal skills shown by effective teachers. Confirmed by recent international study.
- Governors should lead major effort to upgrade teaching as a profession. Aim for better-paid, smart teachers.





# Question and Answer

- Why do a majority of Americans think schools today are worse than when they attended?
- School reforms were not properly targeted on parental background and teacher quality.





# Conclusion

- For fifty years, Coleman's findings have been challenged but no one has been able to prove him wrong.
- School reform must be re-focused on parental backgrounds and teachers if it is to be successful.
- Elected officials are those primarily responsible for solving economic and social problems. Schools can help them, not lead.



# Thank you!

*Fatigued by School Reform* by Jack Jennings

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781475851281/>

[Fatigued-by-School-Reform](#)

Jack Jennings' websites:

<http://jackjenningsdc.com/>

<https://www.jackjenningseducation.com>





# Moderated Discussion



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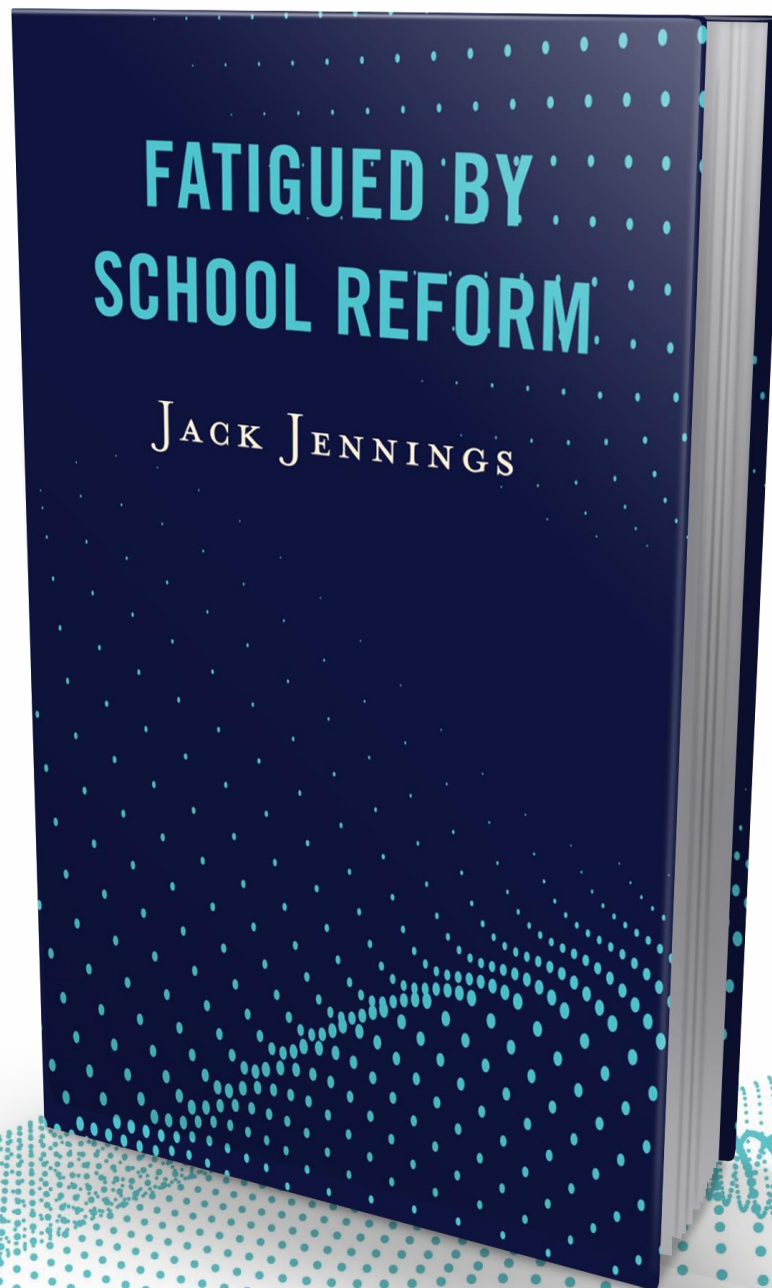


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