We are on a journey of profound and systemic change enabled through the fourth industrial revolution. A more ubiquitous and mobile internet, smaller and more powerful sensors, robotics, artificial intelligence and machine learning are helping to enable a digital transformation in education.

The singular constant in this journey will be the speed of change. As we go forward, there will be an increased emphasis on the ability of workers to adapt continuously and learn new skills to stay relevant and employable. Aging is an economic challenge that can be addressed through improved access to re-skilling within a dynamic education system. New technologies will dramatically change the nature of work across all industries and occupations including education.

Traditionally, education systems have been slow to realise the potential of technology to rethink education and create more efficient and effective schools. Reduced costs, increased efficiency and effectiveness with better use of data will improve student learning outcomes.

Immersive technology experiences will deliver better teaching and learning scenarios for students, teachers and school leaders although many policy makers are uncertain of the right path to travel. And yet, around the world there are beacons of brilliance to guide us.

Visionary schools, education systems and governments have embraced the promise of digital transformation of education with much success.

They have created new models for teaching and learning that are flexible and personalized. They’ve shown how technology can help solve teacher shortages. They’ve tackled student drop-out rates. They are using data for better decision making and student interventions. And they’re using technology to teach 21st century skills including problem-solving, creative and computational thinking to better equip students for tomorrow’s economy.

Leading Countries of the World (LCW) in the digital transformation of education is a new ‘movement’ to inspire Public/Private co-operation and partnerships to harness the power of learning technologies and help build knowledge and human capital for the benefit of all.

Facilitated by Microsoft and supported by the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE), LCW has been established to share best practice through a select global community of leadership. This new forum for international co-operation provides valuable insights into best practice, and enables an environment for governments to work together on joint projects, research and to support each other on the journey to the digital transformation of education.

It is only by bringing together countries with a mindset committed to digital transformation of education, working in collaboration with expert stakeholders, that it becomes possible to build a holistic perspective in an environment where integrated ideas and proven execution will drive systemic change.

The fourth industrial revolution is underway; we need to embrace it.

“I don’t know where I am going, but I’m on my way.”

Voltaire
Empowering the students of today for the world of tomorrow

As the world changes, so does the future for our students. We need to prepare them for a drastically shifting employment market that isn’t matched to the pedagogy, culture and technology of the previous century.

We know that the successful deployment of learning technologies is a key way to fuel economic development, increase workforce competitiveness, transition to a knowledge-based economy and help drive job creation.

The single most important use of technology is to improve education and yet in many countries in the world we have not yet seen digital transformation in education in the same way that other industries have embraced it.

We know that change requires strong partnerships and trust.

To transform education in and beyond the classroom, we need to drive both holistic and systemic change and work collaboratively to bring the best ideas, tools, and partnerships forward. The new era of digital learning requires all stakeholders from government leaders, curriculum publishers and equipment manufacturers to technology providers, and service organisations to align to enable change.

In response to the need for increased collaboration specifically focused on the digital transformation of education, Microsoft is pleased to sponsor the collective wisdom of the Leading Countries of the World (LCW) in the digital transformation of education.

This is a movement founded on international co-operation, facilitating dialogue and best practice sharing. The aim is to accelerate digital transformation in a collaborative environment, supported by insights from the technology industry.

LCW is anchored by the Education Transformation Framework, a summary of decades of evidence-based research that identifies the 10 critical components required for successful system-wide digital learning transformation in education.

Microsoft was founded on the principle that people can do remarkable things when technology is within reach. As devices and technology become more accessible and the capabilities grow, we will unlock the potential for all students to learn, closing the skills gap and empowering every student on the planet to achieve more.

To realize this mission, we must rally those who share our passion for students to build the future with us. Please join us in this important movement for change.

Anthony Salcito
Vice President, Worldwide Education Microsoft

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**Education Transformation Framework**

Leading Countries of the World in the digital transformation of education is anchored by the Microsoft Education Transformation Framework – a research-based fast-track system-wide transformation plan and offered to governments globally.

- **Leadership and Policy**
  - Establishing a Vision
  - Organizational Capacity, Strategic Planning and Quality Assurance

- **21st Century Pedagogy**
  - Teacher and Leader Capacity

- **Partnerships and Local Capacity Building**

- **Technology Design**
  - Designing Technology for Efficient and Effective Schools
  - Curriculum and Assessment

- **Physical & Virtual Learning Environments**
  - Developing a Learning Community

- **Inclusion, Accessibility and Sustainability**
Join the Leading Countries of the World in the digital transformation of education

A movement for change
Leading Countries of the World (LCW) in the Digital Transformation of Education is an intergovernmental community of excellence founded by global education technology leaders. Our goal is to help nations become more efficient and effective in their implementation of digital transformation. We achieve this by facilitating co-operation and communicating best practice in order to lead the narrative and inspire positive change.

As a community we work to raise awareness and promote bold ambition, supporting education systems through consensus on critical success factors and collaborative research. By connecting countries that are leading in the digital transformation of education, LCW enables members to share transformational journeys and hear from a community of peers focused on improving the quality of learning outcomes across the world.

Your national advantage
For those countries participating in LCW, you will join an invaluable network of like-minded government leaders all focused on transforming education through digital innovation. You will gain:

• Improved information, ideas and insights with access to research, tools and best practice.
• Greater efficiencies through collaboration opportunities for research and joint projects.
• Better understanding of global technology trends from the technology industry with the ability to identify new solutions required.
• Use of the collective wisdom of global Education leader community and recognition for your work and contribution.
• Ability to lead in regional workshops and join a digital global network for ongoing connection and dialogue with government leaders.

LCW Engagement Model

Support for Digital Transformation
Ministries will be supported by named Microsoft staff to support global connections, identify areas of best practice and provide support for digital transformation journeys.

Global Collaboration Platform for Digital Transformation
A digital communications and collaboration platform supporting international dialogue and interaction with additional facilitated regional forums.

Digital Transformation Library
Identification of leading practice, tool availability and research to better support digital transformation.

Global Education Review for Digital Transformation in Education
Annual conference supported by experts, thought leaders, international organizations, including UNESCO and OECD, World Bank and the international donor community to discuss and assess progress of global digital transformation of learning.
Global Inspiration

Here are some of the exciting digital transformation successes from leading countries that we will be sharing through this initiative.

United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates have developed a systems leadership progression tool in support of the Education Transformation Framework that will be made available to global governments.

Australia

LEADing Lights is the enabling education conversation platform designed for 163 schools of Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA). A new digital system with personal learning, communication, digital content, information, and business processes, all enriched by advanced analytics and cognitive services, and continuously improved through research.

United Kingdom

The UK has introduced a new Computing curriculum for students aged 5 up to enhance computational thinking skills.

Finland

Finland is redesigning their Teacher pre-service curriculum and providing online professional development to all teachers.

Argentina

Argentina is addressing a 50% drop-out rate of secondary students through the Asistire program that collects data and uses predictive analytics to allow for better student interventions.

Register your interest at aka.ms/lcw

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Leading Countries of the World

in the digital transformation of education