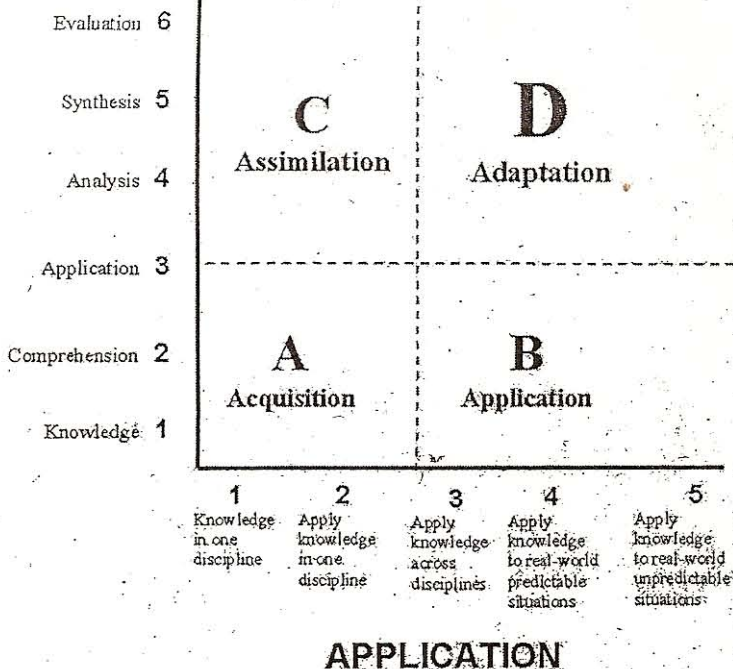


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Graph courtesy of Dale Eggebraten

Dr. Willard Daggett, president of International Center for Leadership in Education, says that all educators can use the Rigor/Relevance Framework to set their standards of excellence as well as to plan the objectives they wish to achieve, wherein the students' achievements are measured by the six components of Knowledge and the five components of Application, as shown above. Daggett demonstrates that the world is a D based world and U.S. schools have become A based. In addition, section B represents skills obtained at the technical and vocational schools in the nation while section C represents skills obtained from colleges and universities.

EDUCATION:

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Daggett. "But who is pushing school reform, businesses are, the private sector. Why not the educating community?"

Daggett says since 1983, and the publication of *A Nation at Risk*, the nation has experienced increasing pressure to raise academic standards for all students, concretely known as the No Child Left Behind Act. Yet, the way the system is set up to better prepare our children is in fact putting them behind the rest of the world.

"The first rule in education reform is: you will not and cannot change your schools until you have more pressure for change than resistance to change," said an enthused Daggett. "I am going to try hard to make you [teachers, legislators, administrators, parents and the media] feel as guilty as possible because we are part of the problem. Still, everyone's got ideas of what someone else should do."

Daggett quickly dove into the meat of the problem that U.S. schools are facing in 2007 and said that outside of school the world is changing faster than the world inside of school.

"Literacy is constantly evolving and changing and we are teaching our students Old English" said Daggett referring to the out-

dated forms of reading and writing that are present in the U.S. public school system. "E-mail has become the primary source of communication in our government and amongst our private sectors, so why aren't we teaching e-mail in school? Equity and excellence are in conflict."

Daggett proceeded to discuss the generation gap between teachers (the baby boomers and generation X) and students (the millennials), and explained to the audience that today's youth are digital learners and thus information moves four to five times faster through their brains than their parents' brains.

Daggett mentioned several times during his lecture that he was not politically correct, and frankly, kids today analyze media and images very quickly and their teachers are simply boring them to death.

"Your schools have become museums and we have become curators," said Daggett.

He suggests a change in the instruction and not in the structure to produce a holistic and up-to-date output, an output as fast and convenient as the latest IPOD that is 16,000 times faster than the 1964 IBM system Daggett used when he was in college.

In a nut shell, the U.S. is facing challenges with globalization and growing technology and Daggett says that in a year

or two the U.S. will not be the preeminent economic world power that it has been.

"You are about to get handed your lunch; India and China have awoken. Private sectors want our young people to cope with the global economy and the children in the VI are not ready" continued Daggett.

Daggett says:

- * Abandon grade equivalency measures of readability, and adapt the Lexile Framework that avoids the problem of labeling reading expectations for a particular grade level.

- * Take something off of the curriculum. Get rid of what teachers might like to teach but students don't need to know.

- * Practice and share the Rigor and Relevance Framework—the student's ability to apply high-rigor knowledge in a relevant, real-world setting—as it best describes the difference between high-performance schools and the others.

- * Don't negotiate core academic learning in English, maths and sciences, but stretch learning beyond the minimum requirements and engage students. Lastly, help develop to the student's personal skills.

Daggett will host his 15th Model Schools Conference in Washington D.C. on Saturday, June 30 until Tuesday, July 3 and has invited a team from each public school on island to attend.