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## ***Common Sense School Reform*** **By Rick Hess**

Education reform is among the most important and contentious issues facing the nation today. Frederick M. Hess, a leading educational analyst and American Enterprise Institute Director of Education Policy Studies, presents a comprehensive approach to the challenge of improving school reform—where often, efforts tend to be colored by ideological or fervent beliefs that particular success stories can be readily cloned across the nation.

*Common Sense School Reform* instead argues that we will make serious strides at improving schools not by tinkering with fanciful pedagogical or curricular solutions, but by better leveraging the simple power of accountability, incentives and flexibility. Hess' plan lays out *five crucial steps* towards improving America's schools through "common sense" tactics:

- Increased accountability of students, teachers, and administrators
- More choices and flexibility
- Greater openness in teacher recruitment
- Better training of administrators in management and leadership
- Enhanced use of technology

The author challenges the conventional wisdom on such issues as the merits of class size reduction, the perils of standardized testing, the advantages of teacher tenure, and the notion that principals need to have teaching experience in order to be effective administrators.

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