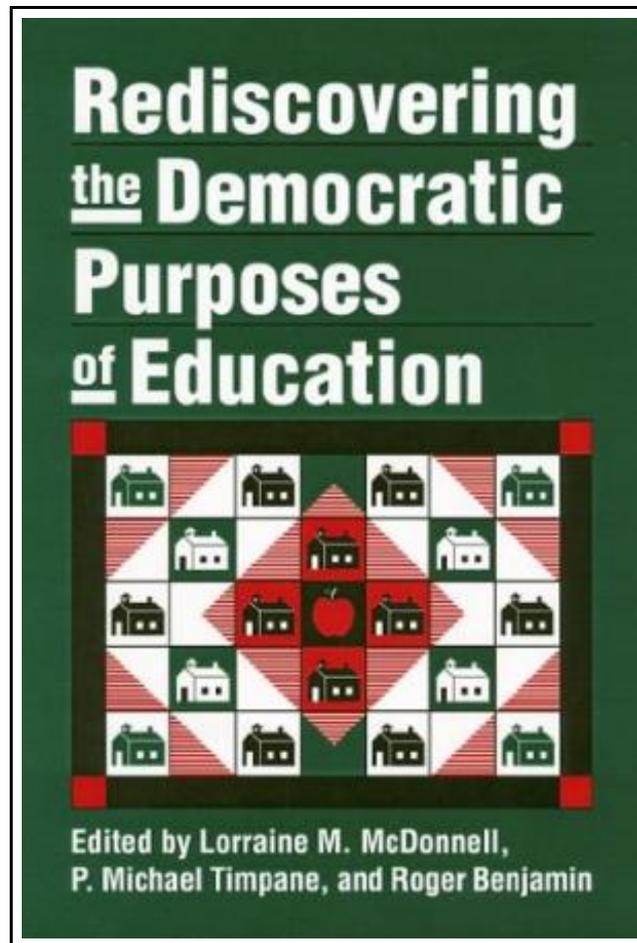


Rediscovering the Democratic Purposes of Education



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REDISCOVERING THE DEMOCRATIC PURPOSES OF EDUCATION



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University Press of Kansas. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 288 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.1in. x 0.8in. Why do Americas public schools seem unable to meet todays social challenges As competing interest groups vie over issues like funding and curricula, we seem to have lost sight of the democratic purposes originally intended for public education. Public schools were envisioned by the Founders as democratically run institutions for instilling civic values, but todays education system seems more concerned with producing good employees than good citizens. Meanwhile, our countrys diversity has eroded consensus about citizenship, and the professionalization of educators has diminished public involvement in schools. This volume seeks to demonstrate that the democratic purposes of education are not outmoded ideas but can continue to be driving forces in public education. Nine original articles by some of todays leading education theorists cut a broad swath across the political spectrum to examine how those democratic purposes might be redefined and revived. It both establishes the intellectual foundation for revitalizing American schools and offers concrete ideas for how the educational process can be made more democratic. The authors make a case for better empirical research about the politics of education in order to both reconnect schools to their communities and help educators instill citizenship. An initial series of articles reexamines the original premise of American education as articulated by important thinkers like Jefferson and Dewey. A second group identifies flaws in how schools are currently governed and offers models for change. A final section analyzes the value conflicts posed by the twin strands of democratic socialization and governance, and their implications for education policy. Spanning philosophy, history, sociology, and political science, this book brings together the best current thinking about the specifics of education policy vouchers, charter schools, national testing and about the role of deliberation in...



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