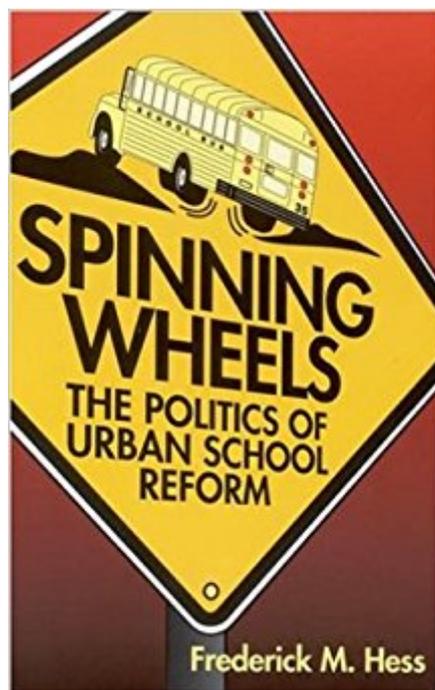


The book was found

# Spinning Wheels: The Politics Of Urban School Reform



## Synopsis

Almost everyone agrees that America's urban schools are a mess. But while this agreement has fostered widespread support for aggressive reform, Frederick Hess argues that much of what ails urban education is actually the result of continuous or fragmentary reform. Hess explains that political incentives drive school superintendents to promote reforms--to demonstrate that they are "making a difference." Superintendents have to do this quickly, both because their tenure is usually three years or less and because urban communities are anxious to see educational improvement. However, the nature of urban school districts makes it very difficult to demonstrate concrete short-term improvement. The result is what he terms "policy churn," which distracts teachers and principals from efforts to refine classroom teaching while seldom resulting in successful long-term changes. Hess argues that policymakers have misallocated resources by pursuing the "right" structure or the "best" pedagogy while paying insufficient attention to the more mundane--and more important--questions of how to implement, refine, and sustain a particular approach in their particular district. Hess explains that previous research on high-performing schools suggests that the best schools are characterized by focus and by an ability to develop expertise in specific approaches to teaching and learning. To help educators and policymakers adopt and nurture a focused agenda, he recommends institutional changes that increase the effectiveness of performance outcomes and reduce the incentives to emphasize symbolic reform.

## Book Information

Paperback: 228 pages

Publisher: Brookings Institution Press (November 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0815736355

ISBN-13: 978-0815736356

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,131,765 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Spinning](#) #469 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Rural](#) #2069 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Education Theory > Reform & Policy](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is about a very basic problem in urban schools, the problem of reform churn. In surveying over 60 urban schools, the author found that there is a pattern of school boards hiring new school superintendents, who comes in with great promise and lots of new ideas. There are lots of changes for a couple years, but there is no dramatic improvement, so the current school superintendent gets fired because things are still bad. Then a new superintendent comes in, again promising to fix things by implementing a lot of changes. The net result is no reform last long enough to truly fix any problems. The school district keeps lurching in different directions every couple years, never making any real progress. As I read this book I thought of:-----"We trained hard, but it seemed every time we were beginning to form up into teams, we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing, and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization"From Petronii Arbitri Satyricon AD 66. Attributed to Gaius Petronus Gaius Petronus, a Roman General, later committed suicide-----A pattern on constant reform is not new. Frederick Hess analyses the environment that produces this pattern in the school environment. He finds that in general members of the school board want to be re-elected. Many are using the office of school board as a stepping stone to other elected political offices. In general school boards which fight with each other don't get re-elected, so they are motivated to find issues they can agree on, and reform is an issue for which most board members see a need.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Spinning Wheels: The Politics of Urban School Reform Hot Wheels Forty Years (Hot Wheels (Krause Publications)) Hot Wheels Field Guide: Values and Identification (Warman's Field Guides Hot Wheels: Values & Identification) Hot Wheels Spectraflame: The Essential Guide (Hot Wheels (Krause Publications)) Revisiting "the Culture of the School and the Problem of Change" (The Series on School Reform) (Sociology of Education Series) Noxious New York: The Racial Politics of Urban Health and Environmental Justice (Urban and Industrial Environments) Framing Equal Opportunity: Law and the Politics of School Finance Reform (Stanford Law Books) Autocracy and Redistribution: The Politics of Land Reform (Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics) So Much Reform, So Little Change: The Persistence of Failure in Urban Schools SPINNING AND DYEING YARN Small Upright Spinning Wheel Construction Manual The Loving Stitch: A History of Knitting and Spinning in New Zealand Spin Control: Techniques for Spinning the Yarns You Want Stop Spinning, Start Breathing: A Codependency Workbook for Narcissist Abuse Recovery The Golden Spinning Wheel, Op. 109 / B. 197: Study Score Spinning Wind and Water: Hurricanes (Bel the Weather Girl) The Diabolo Book: Spinning a Top on a String with Hand Sticks Table Tennis - How to

Classify, Read, Predict Spins & Return a Spinning Ball: Referring to the Principles of Physics  
Preppers Pantry: The Ultimate Survival Guide For Emergency Water & Food Storage During An  
Urban Emergency (Urban Survival Pantry, Canning And Preserving, Camping, Life Saving Meals,  
Survival Guide) Vertical Gardening for Beginners: How To Grow 40 Pounds of Organic Food in a  
4x4 Space Without a Yard (vertical gardening, urban gardening, urban homestead, ... survival  
guides, survivalist series)

[Dmca](#)