



THE FUTURE BEGINS TODAY

EDUCATION AND THE FUTURE LABOR MARKET FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people face a complex labor market. Although educational opportunities have grown, and today one studies more than the previous generations did, job opportunities do not always live up to young people's expectations..

The Good News:

Almost all primary school age boys and girls receive a primary education.

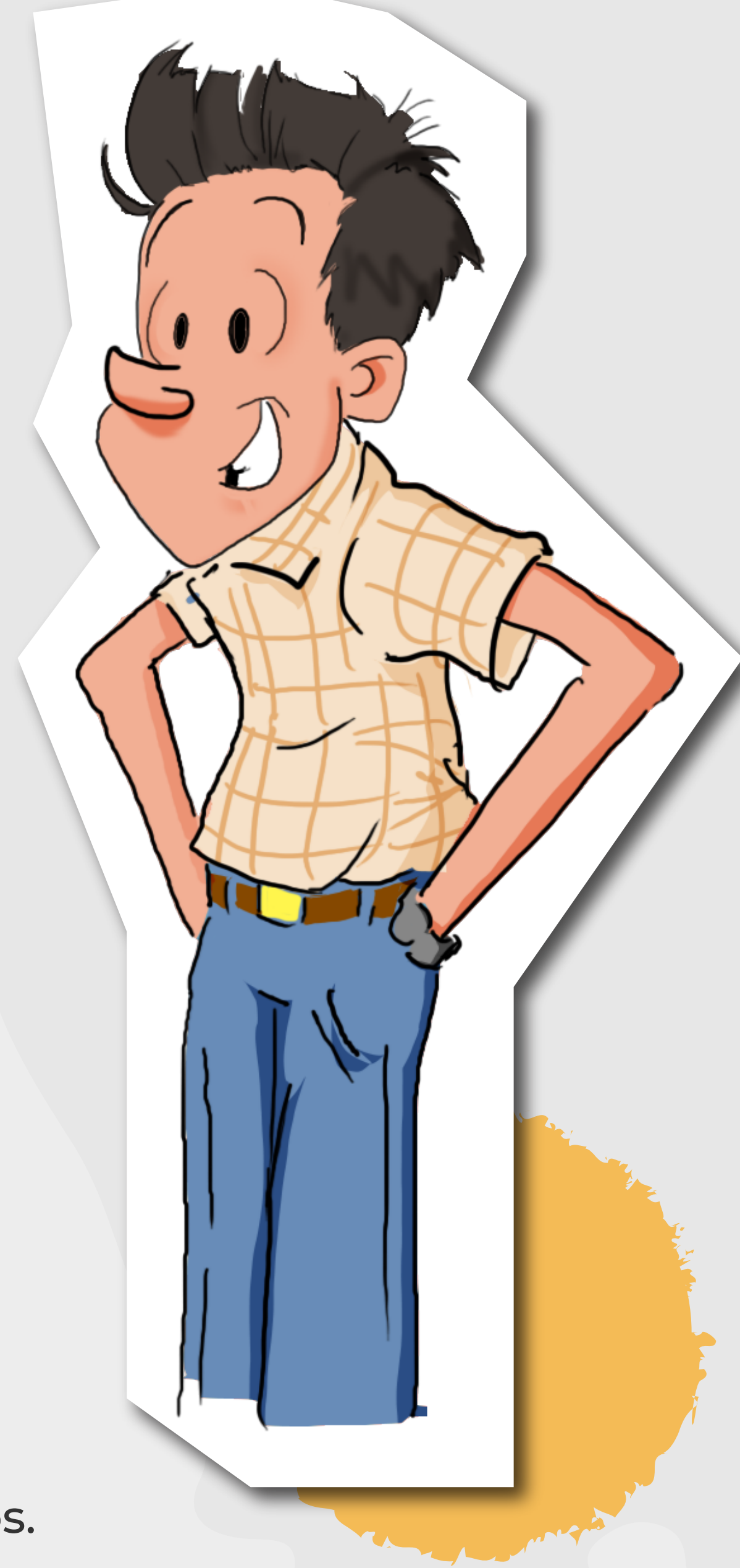
The current cohorts of young people study for an overall average of two more years than previous cohorts did.

Challenges:

The rate of youth unemployment in the overall Latin America and the Caribbean region reached 13.8 percent in 2024, almost three times higher than the unemployment rate of adults. Unemployment rates in the English-speaking Caribbean are even higher reaching an average of 23 percent (World Bank 2025).

6 out of 10 young people who are employed, work in informal situations.

This gap between training and opportunities can generate frustration. Schools and public programs have joined forces to open paths toward dignified and meaningful jobs.



WHAT YOU LEARN TODAY, YOU CAN USE TOMORROW

School not only provides academic knowledge: it also provides tools that are useful for life and the workplace:

Basic skills: Reading, writing and mathematics, use of technology.

Social and emotional skills: how to work in a team, communication skills, creativity, conflict resolution.

Practical skills: these are imparted through workshops, doing projects, vocational and professional orientation.

Values: responsibility, respect, punctuality, care for the environment.

These competencies help the individual to cope with a changing world of work and to participate actively in the community.

OAS Interamerican Democratic Charter Corner:

Article 11

Democracy and social and economic development are interdependent and are mutually reinforcing.

THE TRANSITION INTO THE WORLD OF WORK

- To become employed means independence, wider networks, and the ability to contribute to the development of the community.
- The paths to employment of many young people are diverse: some study and work at the same time, others switch jobs or take breaks in between jobs.
- The challenges are real: unemployment, informality, technological changes, and economic crises have their greatest impacts on young people.
- Each working experience contributes an apprenticeship opportunity and opens new paths.

The transition from school to work is a challenge, but it is also an opportunity to grow and contribute to the society.



BETTER DECISION-MAKING SKILLS

Productivity means more than simply having a job: it also involves making good decisions concerning economic and social matters..

Financial skills: Learning money management, including saving, planning expenditures, and avoiding unnecessary debt.

Citizenship skills: understanding rights and responsibilities, participating in collective decision-making, nurturing democracy.

Digital skills: harnessing technology in a critical and secure way in order to study, work and organize with other people.

These skills build personal autonomy and strengthen community life. .

Knowing how to manage resources, rights and technology opens more opportunities for the future.

Look after what you have, plan for what you would like to achieve.

Financial management is not simply a matter of paying bills: it also signifies organizing your resources, achieve goals and making decisions on how to invest in contributions to your personal and community life.



LIFE PROJECT: MORE THAN JUST WORK

Your life project involves joining a vocation with a job: do what you have a passion for, support yourself economically and embrace the opportunity to contribute to our work for the community.



In school	How it helps us to find our way
Interests, skills, and values are explored and developed.	This allows us to better decide what to study and to find our preferred area of work.
We do aptitude tests, participate in job fairs and assessments.	This provides orientation to discover passions and options for the future.
Continuous practical learning, internships and adaptation are encouraged.	These prepare us for a changing labor market.
We have the chance to think about goals and responsibilities.	This helps us to design a life project that merges the personal with the collective wellbeing.

School prepares us for the world of work in many ways, even though we may not always be aware of it.

From school to work...

What we learn in school	How this is applied on the job
Reading, writing and mathematics	Learning to carry out instructions, prepare reports, undertake calculations, and prepare budgets.
Digital technologies	Using programs, searching for information you can trust, communicating in digital contexts.
Working in teams and improving our communication skills.	Collaborating with others, resolving conflicts, and coordinating tasks.
Responsibility and punctuality.	Complying with schedules, meeting deadlines, and generating trust.
Creativity and critical thinking	Contributing ideas, fixing problems, and proposing improvements.

What one learns in school prepares us for the world of work

In school	At work
We learn values like respect, solidarity, and justice.	These values are drawn on for work relationships and in decision-making.
We develop the habit of engaging and of working in a team.	We collaborate with colleagues and accomplish collective goals.
We develop critical and creative skills.	We propose solutions and innovations at work.

