

TeachBeyond Organizational Purpose: Ends, Interpretative Statements, & Definitions

Our Purpose

God has called TeachBeyond to be an agent of Holy Spirit empowered transformation among those whom we serve: educators, learners, organizations, and communities.

EDUCATORS

End statement: Educators will be effective models of an integrated life.

Interpretative statement: We exist and serve so that educators will become increasingly effective, transformational models of a Christ-centered life which integrates Biblical faith, learning, and living.

We believe that well-trained, fully equipped, and disciplined educators will be effective agents of transformation as they integrate their faith with their life and vocation. The greater the number of Spirit-empowered, transformed, and transformational educators we have from every region and serving in every region, the greater will be the impact for God's glory.

Definitions:

- *Educators* refer initially to all TeachBeyond team members and then to the deliverers of educational services whom we train or influence by word and life. This includes all who are responsible for teaching, professional and non-professional, formal and informal.
- *Increasingly* refers to the idea that we and those we train as educators are to be on a personal growth journey in which we come to progressively understand and embody the principles we espouse.
- *Effective* will be defined as a measure of a culturally appropriate interface of global standards and local principles and practices in the educational environment. (We understand that it is easier for us to screen, train, and support TeachBeyond employees and team members and thus to influence and assess their effectiveness.)
- *Models* refers to our belief that our mission of Holy Spirit empowered transformation is to be contagious in ways that leave people able to see and thus "catch" transformational education principles and practices.
- *Christ-centered* speaks to our acknowledgement that Christ is Lord of all creation, including, in particular, Lord of our personal lives.
- *Integrated* refers to our belief that all domains of life are to be permeated with Biblical truth and that it is this that creates a seamless link between our thoughts and behaviors, our words and our works. Consequently, integration should occur in all our service settings, whether formal or informal.

LEARNERS

End statement: Learners will be holistically transformed and transformational.

Interpretative statement: We exist and serve in order for learners of all ages and in all regions of the world to become holistically transformed and then to be agents of transformation.

We believe that the Holy Spirit uses careful planning and excellent programming to create transformation in the life of a learner. As the learner is transformed, he or she becomes an agent of transformation. Therefore, we seek to educate as many learners as possible in the best educational environments we can provide.

Definitions:

- *Learners* refer to those whom we teach directly or through our sphere of influence. In

most cases, we would refer to learners as “students,” but because this can imply a formal educational setting, we use a broader term, namely “learners.” These include students, campers, seminar participants, and others. We assume that the more interaction we have with them, directly and over time, the greater the likelihood is that they will understand and adopt the principles of transformation we promote. We will seek to serve all willing learners to the degree that this is practical and feasible.

- *Every region* speaks to our desire to provide or otherwise support transformational education services wherever it is feasible with special consideration for least reached, at risk, or resource poor populations.
- *Holistically* means that our services will seek to provide educational services that provide for growth to a global standard in accordance with a learner’s potential in their context and in every domain of life, including the physical, spiritual, mental, social, and emotional. Not all services may be delivered in equally holistic ways, but we will seek to be as holistic as possible. Growth in “every domain” accepts as fundamental the idea that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of all knowledge.” There are no objective facts without a presupposed worldview and beliefs.
- *Agents and transformational* means that our goal in seeing learners holistically transformed is to see them transformed in ways that enhance enduring (eternal) personal success. Our goal is also to see them embrace the transformational principles we have modeled in ways that make them agents of positive change in the families and communities where they live. This is explained in more detail in two foundational documents: *A Framework for Transformational Education Services* and *Transformational Education Services and the Gospel*.

ORGANIZATIONS

End statement: Organizations will achieve optimal mission effectiveness.

Interpretative statement: We exist and serve in order that organizations with which we partner will achieve optimal mission effectiveness.

We believe education occurs in an organizational environment that can be carefully developed to aid the teaching-learning process. We are committed to helping our partners become as organizationally effective and Christ-honoring as possible. In order for us to do this, we must model the principles and practices we advocate.

Definitions:

- *We* is understood to refer to TeachBeyond but it is not intended to communicate the idea that TeachBeyond serves exclusively (independently) of others. We see ourselves normally working in partnership with likeminded people and entities to create change as the Holy Spirit enables us.
- *Organizations* refer to the legal or social entities people create to achieve a goal. These include schools, universities, seminaries, camps, churches, agencies, businesses, governments, and others. People who themselves need transformation will create and operate interpersonal systems which also need transformation. Even though we exist to help those with whom we officially and unofficially partner become more effective in the teaching-learning process, we acknowledge that we cannot do this if we ourselves are not pursuing mission effectiveness. In other words, we cannot exist to do something for others that we are not doing ourselves. The organizations with which we work – beginning with TeachBeyond – must exist to bring about some aspect of transformation which we affirm.
- *Will achieve* suggests there is a state of achievement to be realized; nevertheless, we believe achievement is a present and future progressive state of being (literally, “will be achieving”). Even when we reach a degree of optimal effectiveness, the world within and

around us changes and the process of pursuing achievement repeats itself: effectiveness is a “progressively” achieved state that we both achieve and continuously pursue. Therefore, our goal is to achieve a state of being but also to have in place processes that allow us to pursue successfully this state of being.

- *Optimal*, for us, is defined by an interface of local realities and global standards; we exist to help organizations become as effective as possible in terms of local realities, globally recognized quality standards, and Biblical principles.
- *Mission effectiveness* reflects our understanding of the fact that each organization has a mission, vision, and set of values that make it unique; therefore, effectiveness must not only be defined “glocally,” (local+global=optimal), it must be defined in terms of the organization’s reason for existence and sense of uniqueness. TeachBeyond will respect the organization’s mission while it naturally introduces its own understanding of effectiveness, which is based on our philosophy of transformation and service to others.

COMMUNITIES

End statement: Communities will experience redemptive renewal.

Interpretative statement: We exist and serve in order that the communities where we serve across the globe will experience redemptive renewal.

We believe God will transform families, churches, communities, and societies as our educators model transformation and our learners experience it in their hearts and minds. This will bring social, economic, and spiritual restoration.

Definitions:

- *Communities* are the social setting for the educational services we provide. In our framework, the family and the local church are primary communities, although our desire to bring renewal extends to neighborhoods, towns, cities, regions, and even countries.
- *We serve* implies that the focus is on the service of TeachBeyond members. We do believe that our service should have a transformative impact beyond the educational venue into the wider social setting, but we serve with the intention of seeing learners transformed – learners who become, in turn, ambassadors of transformation. Therefore, most of our impact is likely to be through individuals we teach who become transformational agents in the communities where they live.
- *Across the globe* speaks to our sense of adherence to the commission Christ gave His followers to go into all the world with His gospel. For us, across the globe requires that TeachBeyond mature into an ethnically and culturally diverse group of workers reflective of the global church.
- *Renewal* speaks to change for the “better” defined in Biblical terms. This would include among other things a change to be more Christ-centered, God-honoring, Spirit-empowered, and others-oriented.
- *Redemptive* speaks of our belief that we exist to see social and physical environments improved, renewed, or otherwise positively impacted by our service and the lives of the students whom we teach; genuine holistic transformation in a person must have as a naturally corollary holistic consequences for the world in which the person lives. We believe that redemptive renewal at the community level will be harder to assess and longer term than the other three Ends. From our understanding of Scripture and our reading of history, we know that redemptive lifts in communities and cultures must be ultimately and primarily tied to spiritual renewal (rebirth), if redemption is to be truly pervasive, enduring and reflective of the expression of Christ’s lordship in this world.