

Top Documentaries for Leaders in Education

In recent years, numerous documentaries on education have emerged that cover a wide range of topics including segregation in schools, bullying, and testing. Although there are dozens worth checking out, we narrowed our list down to six well-crafted documentaries that are essential viewing for influencers in the education space.



GIRLRISING

Girl Rising (2013) [↗](#)

Directed by Richard E. Robbins, Girl Rising tells the story of nine girls from across the developing world as they struggle to gain access to education against heavy odds. This inspirational yet unsettling documentary tackles the sexism and inequality in the global education system and features narration from Anne Hathaway, Selena Gomez and more!



The Rule (2014) [↗](#)

Directed by Jerome Bongiorno and Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno, The Rule takes a deep look at how a benedictine prep school located in inner-city Newark, New Jersey beats statistics to boast a nearly 100% college acceptance rate for at-risk teenage boys. This PBS production is a riveting look at what methods work for the monks running the historic school.



Beyond Measure (2014) [↗](#)

Directed by Vicki Abeles, Beyond Measure follows a group of educational thought leaders exploring the concept of a "new" type of classroom founded in expert research across psychology, child development, and education practices. For educators looking for inspirational, out of the box thinking - be sure to check this one out!



Bully (2011) [↗](#)

Perhaps the most widely known of the documentaries on this list, Bully, directed by Lee Hirsch is a harrowing look at five young students experiences with bullying in schools. This film is essential viewing for educators and administrators as a reminder of the struggles kids are dealing with on a daily basis.



American Promise (2013) [↗](#)

A documentary 13 years in the making from filmmakers Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson tracks the journey of two middle-class black families through the U.S. education system. The film directly tackles issues of race, class, and equal opportunity within the context of the education system - particularly in inner cities.



Most Likely to Succeed (2015) [↗](#)

Most Likely to Succeed: From acclaimed director Greg Whiteley comes Most Likely to Succeed, a no holds barred look at how "traditional" forms of education are failing students. The film examines the history of education in America as well as new transformative approaches that could revolutionize K-12 education as we know it.