Conducting fieldwork in high schools across 15 states, I saw silent protests.
How is it that every student in America has felt trapped at their desk, and nothing has been done about it? We treat students like overdue library books, letting them sit forgotten at the back of the class.

Would you show up to a school where you felt lost, bored, unwelcome?—Would you, an adult, wait quietly for the day to end, or speak up? If you and your coworkers didn't show up—like the 50+% of chronically absent 12th graders in every large American school district—would it be business as usual or a strike?

Yet students, who walk out of school every day, are ignored.

At Doorstop Education, we envision a world where every student feels heard, where their unique needs are not only acknowledged but championed—**where reform is not done for students, but by students**. Read the full research report at doorstopped.org/research/leveraged.pdf.

We're building Doorstops, 1,000's of personalized online experiences that inspire student agency nationwide.
Every resource—from email templates for getting extensions on assignments to interactive playbooks on schoolwide culture shift—is based on my field research at high schools in 15 states and extensive student/parent/educator feedback. We've done beta-tests with 70 students with increasingly positive feedback, and will be launching on social media (with 100s of planned videos and influencer partnerships) in September.

Our goal is to make 50,000 students feel safer in school by the end of September, measured with self-reported survey data.

We'll scale by continually improving Doorstops and their reach, partnering more closely with schools—including through revenue-driven consulting for private schools, which will fund our entire nonprofit long term. Based on conversations with private school

administrators, performing this at scale ($300k/annually) will take about three years of building partnerships, a process we've already started! Learn more at doorstopped.org.

We're building school accountability systems, powered by students
We're building transparent data pipelines that help NYC's 80,000 8th graders choose between 700 high schools. It is almost impossible to tell the difference between two high schools: they have identical landing pages and little specific information. The Dept. of Education has a searchable platform with some helpful information—it can show you where a high school is, the course offerings, and how likely you are to get in—but what is the school actually like? Dropout rate, % of class time spent learning, student-counselor ratio, how long is the lunch line.

More importantly, the platform I'm creating will empower current high schoolers, incentivized with cash micro-grants, to collect data on their school and upload it. When students get opportunities like this to identify and share their educational challenges, they put healthy pressure on administrators and get a voice in the eventual reform of their school. Beyond NYC, we're partnering with education researchers nationwide to give 12,000 kids access to an expansive dataset on their individual school experiences, empowering evidence-based self advocacy.

Our team:
Ben Guzovsky is a rising senior at Princeton University and founder of Doorstop Education. He has done extensive fieldwork in American high schools, conducting over 100 one-on-one conversations with students in 15 states. He works on this nonprofit full time and juggles Doorstop creation, software, design, and research.

Emerson Kiefer is an incoming Bay State Fellow at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's M.S. in Computer Science program. He is leading the NYC-wide school accountability initiative, leveraging his experience building data pipelines and a passion for open source software. He received his B.S. in computer science from UMass Amherst.

We are also supported by five incredible part-time volunteers who contribute to research and Doorstop creation: Allison Hartley, Meredith Gallagher, Marko Petrovic, and Lydia Sallade, and Sameer Riaz.

How you can help:
- If you or someone you know is responsible for a teenager (especially if they're struggling, bored, or anxious in school), put us in touch. We'll make time to listen to them and help them out!
- Put us in touch with folks frustrated with US education and skeptical about current reform movements. We'd love to talk!
- Donate to make this work possible. Donations allow us to **build resources and platforms for at-risk students that raise safety, esteem, and belonging**.

This is my deepest, most sustaining vocation: my goal is to have the financial stability to pursue this full time after I graduate Princeton next year, but if I have to work a second job to fund this, so be it.

It's been a privilege listening to so many students, learning from them, and helping them stare out the window a little less. and your support would mean the world.

Thank you so much for your time.

With hope and gratitude,

Ben Guzovsky

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