



# CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING



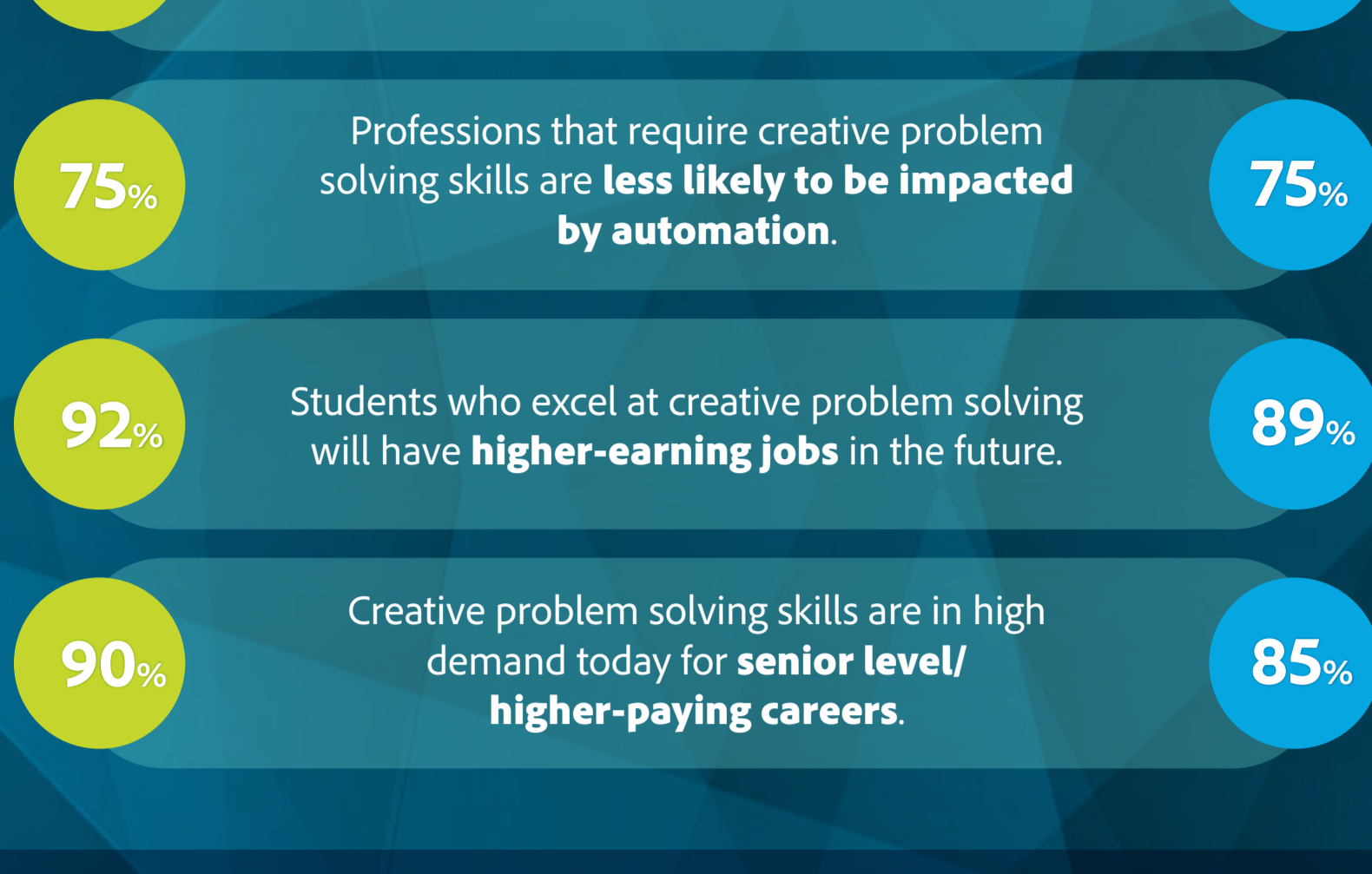
## Essential Skills Today's Students Need for Jobs in Tomorrow's Age of Automation

**Creative problem solving is the process of redefining problems and opportunities, coming up with new, innovative responses and solutions, and then taking action.**

Research shows that tomorrow's jobs will demand creative problem solving skills. We asked 400 higher education and grades 6-12 educators, and 100 policymakers and influencers around the world to tell us about how students are being prepared to be creative problem solvers. Here is what we found...

### Educators and policymakers agree:

#### Creative problem solving is critical to future career success in an age of automation



### And yet these skills are NOT being nurtured in schools today

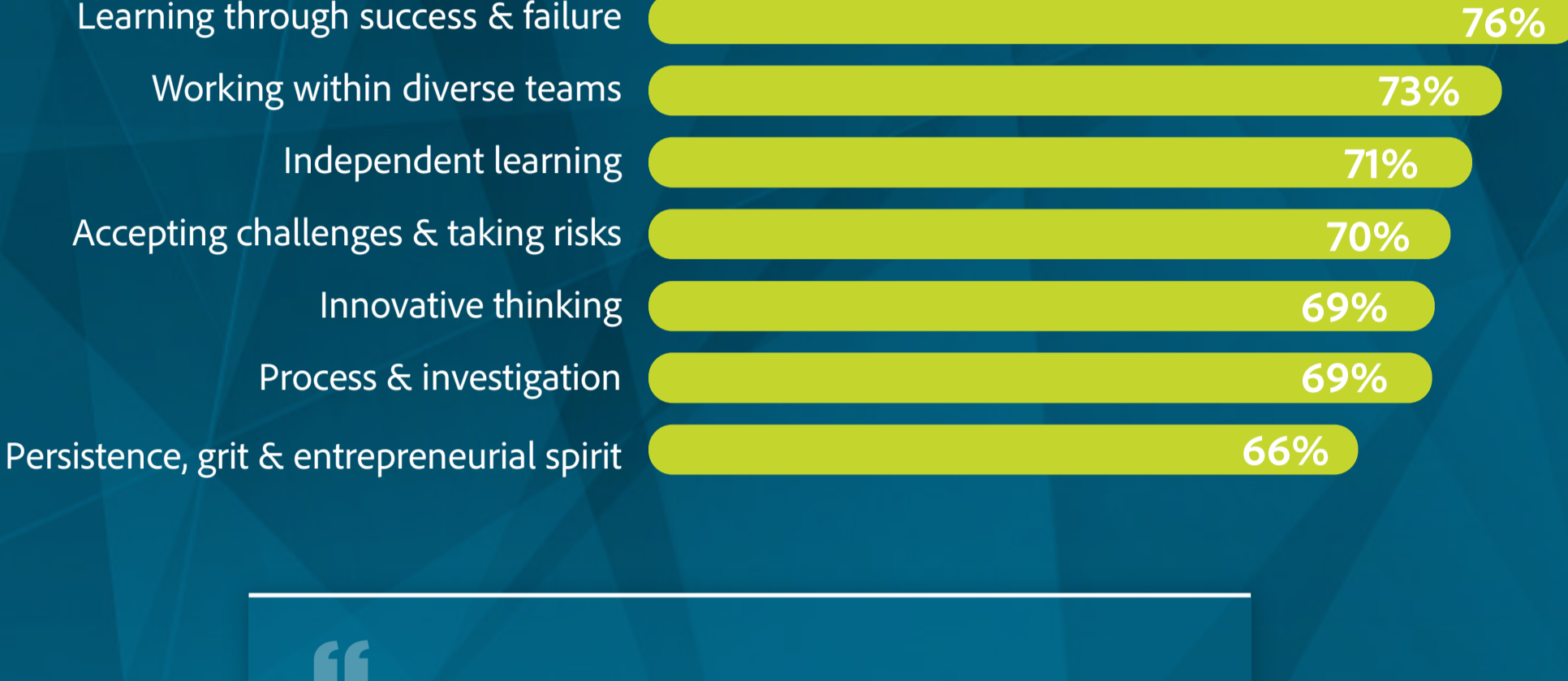


84%

68%

Educators and policymakers agree that there is **not enough emphasis** on creative problem solving in today's curricula.

**In fact, the skills identified as most important to creative problem solving are currently playing a minimal role in today's curricula.**



*“Curriculums in schools today are too focused on strictly abiding by the guidelines that they leave no room for changing with the times. Guidelines strongly need to be refreshed and updated.”*

Policymaker



### There are many barriers to teaching creative problem solving in schools today

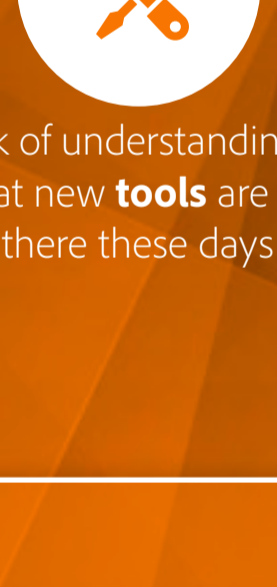
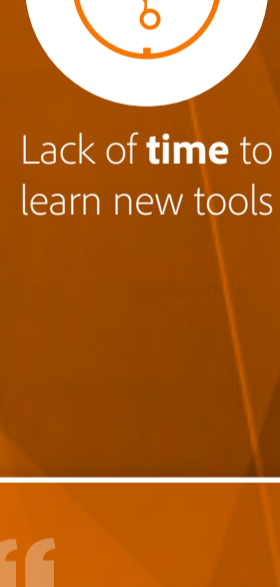


*“We as teachers are expected to teach standards and academic skills, and every once in a while some character building, and we are asked to provide engaging lessons that will motivate students and provide them what they need, but we get little to no training.”*

Educator, Grades 6-12



**More than half of educators don't have access to the tools and training they need to nurture these skills. School budget restraints and a lack of time, technology and training keep teachers from getting the knowledge they need.**



*“With standardized testing and learning objective protocol that most primary and secondary schools in the public sector are legally bound to, it doesn't leave time or freedom for new teachers that are being taught innovative learning strategies to incorporate them into the classroom.”*

Educator, Higher Ed

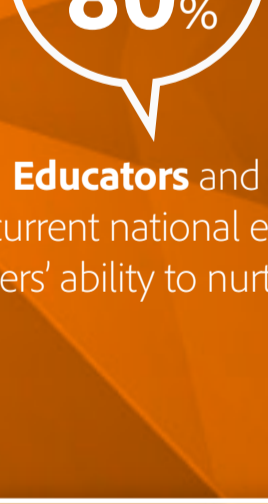


*“I still teach the same curricularized and prepare students for standardized tests rather than teaching topics and ideas outside the box.”*

Educator, Grades 6-12

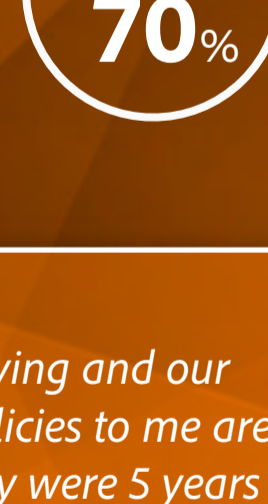
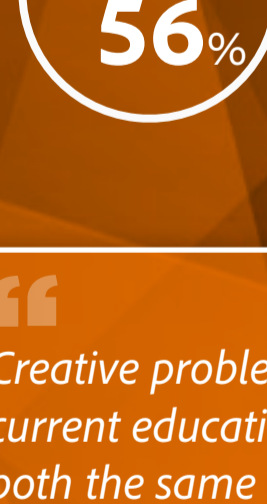


### Today's education policies aren't helping either



**Educators and policymakers** believe that current national education policies mostly hurt teachers' ability to nurture creative problem solving.

There is a gap in understanding the realities of integrating creative problem solving into the classroom. **Policymakers** see these skills as less difficult to integrate into today's curricula than **educators** do.



*“The whole education system has been in a downward spiral since NCLB was implemented and it took a turn for the worse with Common Core.”*

Educator, Higher Ed

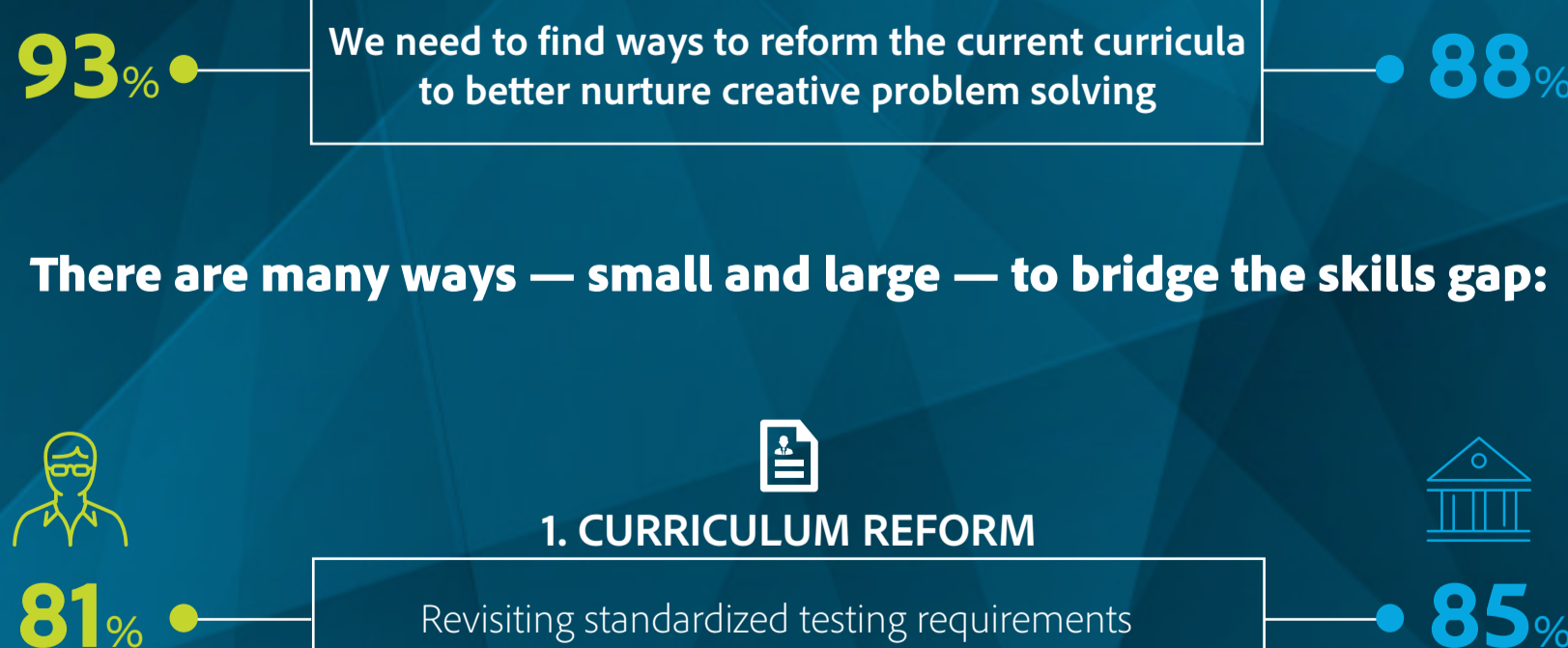


*“Creative problem solving and our current education policies to me are both the same as they were 5 years ago as it is hard to come up with legislation and proposed bills that Congress will pass.”*

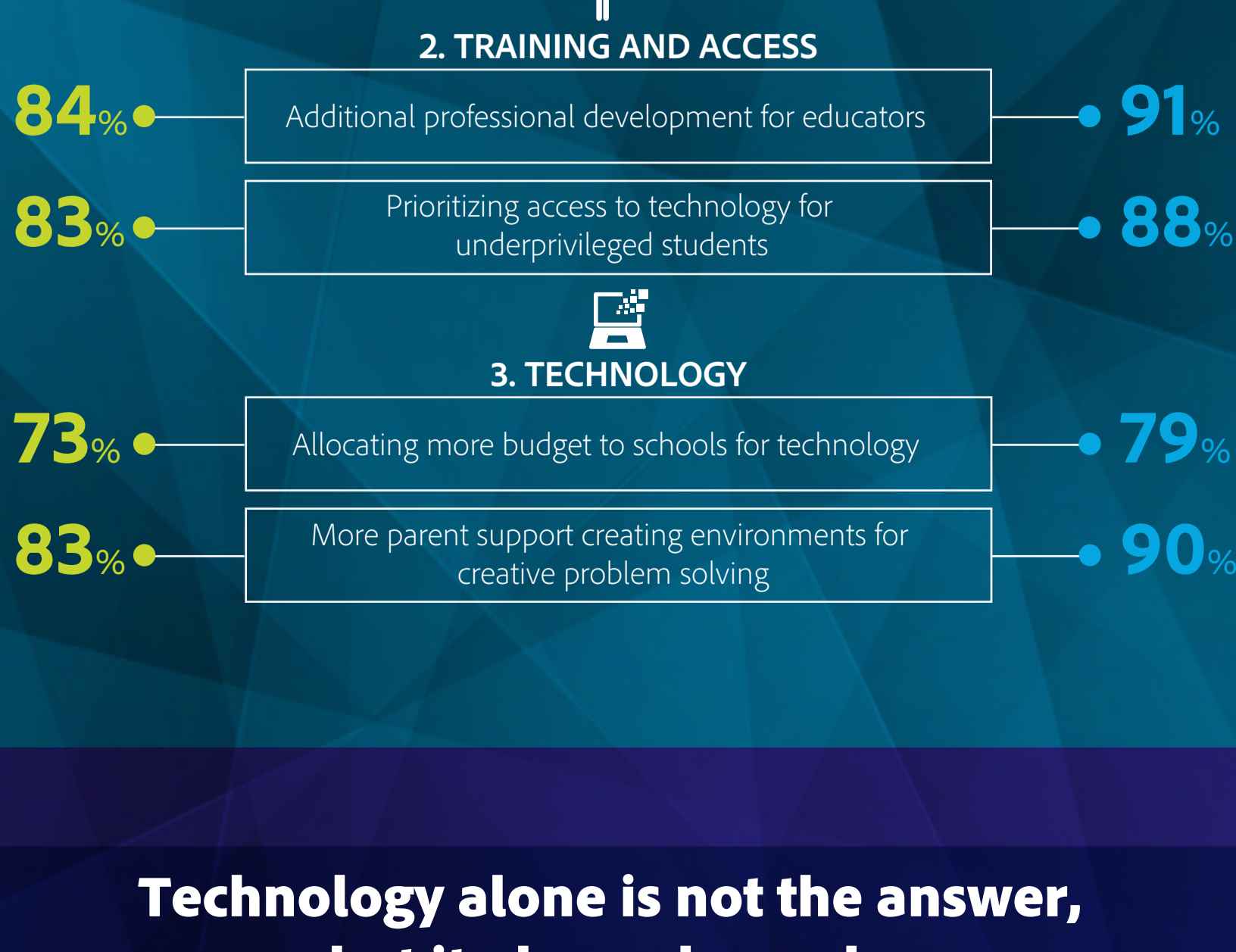
Policymaker



### Educators and policymakers believe it will take a variety of solutions to better nurture creative problem solving



**There are many ways — small and large — to bridge the skills gap:**



### Technology alone is not the answer, but it plays a key role

Today's students are facing a sea change like no other, and Adobe is working with educators and students to help them develop these essential skills for entering tomorrow's workforce.

To learn more about:

- Why creative problem solving skills are so important to jobs of the future
- How Adobe is supporting educators, inspiring students and making tools more accessible
- And to hear directly from educators successfully using technology to teach creative problem solving skills in their classrooms

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