

Danger! *“Bridge Out Ahead”*

An Essay About Public Education

Anyone paying attention today is well aware of the issues facing parents today regarding the education of their children. There are many problems with public education that are causing parents and elected leaders to question the sustainability of the public education system in its current state. The concerns come from both sides of the arguments being made. When elected leaders and politicians decided to fund the public education by illegal taxation on personal property almost four decades ago, they picked a wrong fork in the road. The out of control and increasing cost of the public education system over the past several decades has gained the attention of all taxpayers and homeowners across this nation. The yearly increases in property taxes have cost many taxpayers and homeowners the very homes, they have worked decades for to keep while level of academic achievement has fallen to the very lowest levels in schools across the country.

Taxpayers and citizens want real accountability from government entities and leaders, and this is true of the public education system. Fraud and corruption are common among school districts everywhere and this includes the state of Texas where I live. Fraud and corruption are part of the everyday business of school districts. Elected leaders regardless of political alliance have for decades tried to hide and cover up what has been going on from taxpayers. Over the past several years much work has been done and continues to expose back-room meetings and shenanigans that have lined the pockets of corrupt leaders in every level of government including public school officials.

Teachers and educators have voiced concerns publicly about the problems that exist in the classroom and the red tape and bureaucracy that has been pushed down to the teacher level. Issues pertaining to the conduct and actions of troubled kids allowed to stay in the classroom so schools can collect state and federal dollars has sacrificed the achievement levels of those students who attend the system and there to learn as much as possible. Teachers are frustrated with all the government regulations and political agendas that interfere with the main reason they chose the field of education to serve. The public school system has morphed into a conglomeration of social ideologies and political agendas with detrimental results for the students. Many teachers are leaving the system so they can work in an environment that is conducive to learning and where academic achievement is the driving force and main focus for the classroom. Who can argue with these teachers and professional? Teachers do not go to school and college to become social workers, counselors, nannies, or be the only disciplinary source or action for troublemakers allowed in the classroom.

Over the past two decades the most overwhelming and troubling facts regarding the government run public education system is that top level leaders of government and the public education system do not have a clue how to solve the problems that lie ahead. What elected government leaders and public educators do not realize about the dangers and status of the system is there is a huge bridge out ahead and the danger signs have been ignored for decades. The taxpayers and homeowners are out of money and cannot bear the burden of the broken system any longer. In the north central Texas area taxpayers are taking things into their own hands and are boycotting real estate taxes and the corrupt system in place today. The fallout from the illegal taxation on personal property will be widespread and far reaching. Thousands of jobs in the government run public education are going to be lost. Thousands of school age children will be caught up in this debacle brought on by corrupt government and school districts.

The government and public school system bear significant blame for a percentage of the problems facing the public education today. Another factor has come to the surface regarding what has transpired in Texas and across the nation over the past several decades. This key component has not been addressed and has been ignored by the majority of the very leaders trying to solve a problem they do not understand. The single most important piece to the problems regarding the government run education system are the PARENTS! Yes, you did read this correctly. You can trace the majority of the problems and issues regarding what is going on in the classroom today back to the parents of the children attending a public school in this country. This may sound like an absolutely ridiculous statement, but it does not take very long to realize the truth made in this statement.

Over the past 150 years or so parents began the process of handing over their responsibilities to the government. This includes the responsibility of educating their children. The job, role, and responsibility of educating children falls squarely on the parents. Many will make the argument that as a parent I'm not qualified to be a teacher for my children. This may have been a true statement going back to the 1600's through the 1800's. Much has changed in this country due to the system of education that was created over the past two centuries. The percentage of the population today that cannot read or write is non-existence compared to that of the 1600's. The most illiterate of parents today in this country could teach their young children to read and write and do basic math functions. But the main point that needs to be made is simply this, regardless of whether a parent chooses to homeschool, send their children to private school, or send them to a public education system is one hundred percent the responsibility of parents to fund the education of their children period. When the government gets involved in things, they have no constitutional right or reason to *ALWAYS* leads to disaster. The government always take the obvious, simple, and straightforward ideas and concepts and screws them up. The government is also responsible for making anything they interfere with cost exponentially more than what can be done in the free market system. The government and the public education system have neutered and made the

institution of the family less relevant today. You do not have to look very far in any direction, and you will witness the outcome of what has been in the making for the past several decades. Part of the demise of the family unit and decline in academic achievement is not related to the core subject areas of learning, but instead is the lack of importance and focus on building good character traits. Character, morals, ethics have become almost extinct on the campus of the secular government run public education system. Learning and academic achievement in itself does not make a young person valuable or sought out by the community or business world. A moral compass, good character and virtues are highly sought out traits by many business owners. Many parents today are making choices regarding education with these things in mind.

Wrap Up

To wrap this up. If parents want the very best for their children's education, they need to seek out the best teachers and schools to teach their children. Parents do not get a second chance if they chose the public school system and their child failed to learn and did not achieve the academic level they should have reached. Not only is this a tragedy as a parent and taxpayer you are now handcuffed to keep funding a broken system that failed you and your child. Those individuals that are called or chose to teach because they have a gift of teaching and love to do so, need to get out of the public system and fishbowl approach of education. Children need to be in a classroom setting with teachers who are there to teach with no government red tape or strings attached. Happy teachers make good teachers, good teachers will make good students. It does not get any simpler than this. Everyone wins if the government gets out of the way and lets the free-market system work. Parents, teachers, and children are all better served, and the quality of the education is much better. Receiving an education should NOT be something that politicians and public educators promise or guarantee with worthless words and promises. Education should be based on REAL value; the value of that education will be improved when the privilege is cherished and understood by those children and students who really have a desire to learn and better themselves.