



How Bad is American Public Education?

To evaluate public school results, copy a medical survey used recently in England's public schools. The results are frightening.

Have physicians randomly test America's public high school seniors. The test: use the medical profession's standard questions asked of middle-aged Americans to determine the onset of Alzheimer's disease (pre-senility dementia). As in England, the results will reveal the deterioration of America's public school system. Simple, straight forward, easy to understand.

Public elementary and secondary education has failed since 1964 and is destined to become ten times worse because:

Since 1964, the profound majority of high-achieving women chose professional success rather than bearing and rearing children. Their missing children (since unborn) affected the demise of America's public schools more than any other factor. In addition these successful, achieving women, having fewer or no children made few demands for excellence from the public schools. Their children, if any, were most often enrolled in private schools.

During that period, too many low achieving or non-achieving mothers abandoned discipline and early childhood teaching. Many children entering the first grade do not know the names of colors, how to tie their shoes, the names of common animals, the letters in their name, cannot tell time, and some are not yet toilet trained. "School boards armed with federal mandates pushed the near-impossible task of education on to unsuspecting school superintendents. Thus, child-rearing duties, started six years too late, were shifted adroitly from derelict families to foolish school superintendents. Public school administrators became political puppets for their school boards or naive proponents of the hopeless quest for a college education for all." (*America's Man on Horseback: A Fable?*, p. 29)

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