

PAID CONTENT

## U.S. Public Education Needs Serious Reform

Our Children Are in Trouble – Perhaps for the Rest of Their Lives

Part 1/12

### Public Schools Are Failing Our Children

Parents, are you concerned your child isn't getting the education they deserve? You're not alone. Public schools across the U.S. are failing our children, and the statistics prove it. A recent Gallup poll found that 58% of Americans are dissatisfied with public schools. Despite spending 38% more on education than the average developed country per National Center for Education Statistics, the U.S. lags in international test scores. What is going on?

### The Cost of Looking Good

It's becoming more evident that there are misplaced priorities in education. Much of our educational funding is wasted on overhead costs—elaborate sports facilities, office buildings, and an ever-growing administrative staff, leaving little to assist teachers and children directly. Then there's the administrative pressures of social promotion—advancing students who haven't met academic standards. Did you know that approximately 60 million US citizens cannot read better than a 10-year-old child (PIAAC, 2017)? Also, The National Assessment of Educational Progress notes that 37% of students advance to fourth grade without passing the reading exam.

**Question:** How can educators graduate so many students who can't read? **The answer is simple**—they focus on making their schools look good rather than fulfilling their fundamental responsibility to educate our children.

### Collaborative Solutions for a Better Future

My journey into educational reform began in 2013 when my son's frustrations as a fourth-grade teacher sparked my concern. Despite initial resistance from teachers fearing administrative repercussions, we formed a five-person team and made significant progress. We classified students into three groups: 1. The engaged students, 2. The followers, and 3. The disruptives. Stay tuned for part 8 of this series where I discuss and estimate the valuable instructional time wasted by disruptives (a number that will surprise you). We also list possible solutions.

But why does this matter?

In this series, we will explore the state of U.S. education, covering issues, topics, and trends that directly affect you and your children. The state of education is urgent. Time is of the essence; we are quickly losing our saviors: public-school teachers. I will highlight this crisis; I will also help us realize that although finding solutions requires time, we need to start fighting together now. Our nation and our children's future depend on it.

We are all in this together.

Authored & Paid For By:  
Richard W. Garrett PhD,  
[www.elevateschools.us](http://www.elevateschools.us)