

PAID CONTENT

Can We Fix U.S. Education?

Focusing on These Four Issues Will Be the Key

Part 5/12

A Roadmap to Reform

Are you concerned about the state of public education in the US? Do you want to know what's really causing the decline? In his most recent book, "*US Education Is in Trouble, Let's Fix It! 22 Reform Proposals*", Richard W. Garrett selects the top four issues in order that need urgent attention. These "big hitters" are challenging but crucial for meaningful reform. They are:

1. Parents and Parenting

Parenting is at the core of a child's education. While many parents are loving and attentive, some social skills, such as teaching respect, empathy, and the value of education, tend to fall by the wayside. Disruptive and disrespectful children can waste enormous amounts of classroom time, affecting everyone's learning experience. Imagine the impact of improving parenting on classroom behavior and educational outcomes! Stay tuned for essay #8, where I delve further into disruptive patterns.

2. School Boards and Superintendents Not Doing Their Job:

A primary duty of school boards is to ensure quality education. However, the current state of US public education indicates a failure in this responsibility. Setting and maintaining high standards is crucial. Holding school boards responsible for their job is needed for these ambitious goals to come to fruition.

3. Runaway Discipline Problems Must Be Solved:

Teachers often struggle with discipline, sometimes beyond their control due to various constraints. This issue is widespread; a 2004 report from *Public Agenda*, titled "Teaching Interrupted", estimates about 80,000 US schools lose instruction time because of disruptive behavior. Effectively managing discipline issues would improve learning for all in the classroom.

4. End Social Promotion:

Promoting students to the third grade who haven't met academic requirements, like reading proficiency, sets them up for failure. A child who is socially promoted to the fourth grade without proper reading skills is likely to struggle for the rest of their lives. Learning how to improve teaching our young will set up all our children for long-term success.

Stay tuned for our upcoming essays, in which we will explore these key issues in more detail; and offer potential solutions for many of these critical problems. Let's work together to fix our education system and secure a better future for our children.

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