

“If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war.”

– From President **Ronald Reagan’s** National Commission on Excellence in Education –

Unfortunately, it’s gotten worse – much, much worse!

DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS?

The **Illinois Report Card** is undisputable proof of the failure of government schools to educate students in the very basics of math, English Language Arts, and science. For the 2019 school year, only 32% met or exceeded grade level proficiency in math; ⁱ38% met or exceeded proficiency in English Language Arts; ⁱⁱand 49% met proficiency in science. ⁱⁱⁱ Furthermore, you will see that the failure to provide students with a good education is not confined to Illinois.

Common Core, implemented in every government school in the nation by President Obama, is a set of internationally aligned national education standards that are so bad that the only two subject-matter *experts* on the Common Core Validation Committee refused to sign off. The opposition was so strong that a few states re-branded it and lied to the voters, saying it was gone. Then, in 2015, in a GOP-controlled Congress, establishment Republicans passed the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**, cementing Common Core in place while adding even more outrageous mandates. ^{iv}

ESSA was a radical expansion of Obama’s “full-service community schools,” essentially turning them into parental replacement centers. Government schools now oversee every aspect of a child’s life. “Pipeline services” that must be provided include “a continuum of coordinated supports, services, and opportunities for children from birth through entry into and success in post-secondary education, and career attainment.” Those services must comprise, at minimum: “early childhood education;” school and out-of-school programs and strategies; support for children’s “transitions;” career counseling; “social, health, nutrition, and mental health services and supports;” “crime prevention and rehabilitation programs;” and much more. In other words, everything parents once provided for their children is now the responsibility of schools.

In a **2016 National Education Technology Plan**, the Department of Education revealed “assessments” were already being used to monitor “a range of skills, habits, and attitudes that facilitate functioning well in school, work, and life.” Students who do not fit the mold will face “interventions” under the ESSA.

A Nationwide Epidemic

In 2018, the U.S. Dept. of Education released its **National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP)** results. About two-thirds of eighth-grade students were ranked below proficiency in reading and math on the Nation’s Report Card. ^v

In Baltimore, despite some of the highest spending per student in the nation, 13 out of 39 government high schools failed to produce **even one** student proficient in math for 2017. Another six Baltimore schools had just 1% of students scoring “proficient” in math. Out of those 19 government schools, more than 3,800 students took the federally mandated test — and only **14 students** scored proficient. ^{vi}

According to ACT testing as reported by the Condition of College and Career Readiness 2018, just 40 percent of high-school graduates tested were considered ready to succeed in a first-year college algebra class. Well over a third did not meet the minimum benchmark in any subject. ^{vii}

In 2012, 46 percent of students tested as ready for college work. In 2018, just two in five students were considered ready. ^{viii}

Only “26 percent of ACT-tested 2018 graduates likely have the foundational work readiness skills needed for more than nine out of 10 jobs profiled in ACT’s JobPro database.” ^{ix}

In Washington, D.C., a stunning two-thirds of residents over the age of 15 are classified as functionally illiterate, according to a report by the State Education Agency. ^x



Nationwide, the most recent National Assessment of Adult Literacy by the U.S. Department of Education's National center for Education Statistics revealed just 13 percent of adults rank as proficient in literacy. ^{xi}

It wasn't always this way.

According to *National Education in the United States* by DuPont Nemours, published in 1812, literacy was practically universal back then. Children were mostly taught at home or in schools run by Quakers, Scottish Presbyterians, Moravians, Lutherans, and Anglicans. The parents and Christians taught the children, for the most part. Today, however, roughly 90 percent of school-aged children attend government schools.

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. – Deuteronomy 6:7

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT HOMESCHOOLING?

The home-educated student typically scores 15 to 30 percentile points above public school students on standardized academic achievement tests. ^{xii}

A 2016 analysis revealed that Illinois homeschool students score at the 81st to 87th percentile across the subjects of reading (87th), language (82nd), math (83rd), science (84th), and social studies (81st). ^{xiii}

A 2015 study found Black homeschool students scored 23 to 42 percentile points above Black school students who attend public schools. ^{xiv}

Homeschool students score above average on achievement tests regardless of their parents' level of formal education or income. ^{xv}

Whether homeschool parents were ever certified teachers is not related to their children's academic achievement. ^{xvi}

Homeschooling can take on many forms: parent-led; church-parent co-ops; hired education professionals; one-room school method; umbrella school; or university model.

Many parents have removed their children from public schools during the pandemic due to remote or hybrid learning models being their only other options. As a result, homeschooling has more than doubled during the pandemic. ^{xvii}

Parents find that homeschooling provides several great benefits.

- Curriculum can be customized for child's unique method of learning.
- Builds closer family relationships between children and parents.
- Values and beliefs of the parents are instilled in their children rather than those of a total stranger or other students.
- More is accomplished academically than in schools.
- Homeschooling removes a lot of the stress that comes from a traditional classroom.
- Provides a safer environment than that of a public school.
- Parents decide when to schedule instruction time.
- Instruction can be completed in less time than in a traditional classroom setting, leaving time for other activities.
- Homeschooling gives parents an opportunity to learn right along with their child.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. – Proverbs 22:6

ⁱ <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/State.aspx?source=trends&source2=iar&Stateid=IL>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/State.aspx?source=trends&source2=iar&Stateid=IL>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/State.aspx?source=trends&source2=isa&Stateid=IL>

^{iv} New American Special Report on Education – Second Edition

^v Ibid

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} Ibid.

^{viii} Ibid.

^{ix} Ibid.

^x <https://tinyurl.com/ye62k2cy>

^{xi} https://nces.ed.gov/naal/kf_demographics.asp

^{xii} <https://www.nheri.org/research-facts-on-homeschooling/>

^{xiii} Ibid.

^{xiv} Ibid.

^{xv} Ibid.

^{xvi} Ibid.

^{xvii} <https://fee.org/articles/homeschooling-more-than-doubles-during-the-pandemic/>