

## Problems with Public Schooling

Public schools are in bad shape. Public schools are only going to get in worse shape if things continue in the direction that they are going in now. Education in American society is very important; it is a means to acquire wealth, prestige and power. The biggest problem with public schools is that they are under funded. School districts or even schools (within the same school district) with students from higher socioeconomic status are typically better performing schools when it comes to standardized test. Some school districts spend as much as \$8,000 per student, while others spend less than \$3,000. Public Schools are also surprisingly unequal. Some schools spend so much on security and non-teaching personnel that money for books, teachers, and teaching material are under-budgeted. Some offer an array of different classes and activities to participate while others do not. All of these problems leading back to the problem of funding.

Another problem with public schools is the way schools are measured with standardized test. Standardized test typically favor upper-middle class students and may cause a person who speaks English as a second language problems. Their understanding of a word or problem may differ culturally. For instance, an Asian immigrant student who is a Buddhist might see the word lazy in an analogy problem and pair it with the wrong word. In Buddhism, lazy is a term for a person who works all the time and spends no time for introspection.

Tracking can label a child, and prevent them from reaching their full potential. Tracking is the practice of assignment of students to specific course and educational programs based on their test scores, previous grades or both (Kendall, 382). Labeling theory says that if you label a child or person then that individual is then more likely to

meet the expectation for which they have been labeled. Even if the child is unaware of the label, he or she is going to be subjected to curriculum for which they are assigned. The child's performance is never challenged further than what the schools think they should be challenged.

I only wish I knew how to fix the educational program in public schools. However, to begin with I would like to do away with school vouchers. Vouchers are not even enough to help the students whom need get into these private schools. As I see it, vouchers just drain an already drained public school account. I also believe that there should be incentives for qualified, experienced teachers to get extra pay for working at a school that historically ranks low in performance. More money should be spent on lower grades, like K-8. Teachers should be better trained to teach the kids more and more should be expected of the teachers and students. Curriculum should be based around critical thinking in these lower grades because children are able to build more pathways in their brains at this time. Since schools are a form of brainwashing, in way, school curriculum should also include teaching of such things as tolerance, objectivity and compassion. My one wish (if I could only have one) would be for the whole world to be taught these things. Obviously, I am an idealist.