**INTRODUCTION**

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This article is from the book “The Education Revolution” with a series of posts about the

desperate need to replace the current public school educational process with a new educational

process that is more responsive to the needs of the individual student, teacher, parents and

administrators. Hint: No Child Left Behind, Common Core State Standards (CCSS), charter

schools and vouchers are not the answer. (More than half of the states opted out of the NCLB

Act. Of 44 states and the District of Columbia that were initially affiliated with one or both

multi-state test consortia only [21 will give the Common Core tests in 2016](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2016/03/Reach_of_PARCC_Smarter_Balanced_drops_sharply_in_2015-16.html). Three states –

including Indiana – have gone even farther and rejected the Common Core itself, choosing

instead to adopt new state-specific standards.)

A rewarding personal life, better career options and the ability to function independently and

compete in a literate democratic society requires that each citizen become functionally literate

with the ability to read, write and do arithmetic.

**“THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION”**

By

**Woodie H. Thomas, III, Ph.D., Esq.**

**PREFACE**

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| [**“Upon the education of the people of this country the fate of this  country depends."**](http://www.quoteworld.org/quotes/11315)     [**Benjamin Disraeli**](http://www.quoteworld.org/authors/benjamin-disraeli)  [**"If kids come to us [educators/teachers] from strong, healthy functioning families, it makes our job easier. If they do not come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families, it makes our job more important."**](http://www.quoteworld.org/quotes/3079) [**Barbara Colorose**](http://www.quoteworld.org/authors/barbara_colorose)  **“**[**One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/c/carljung108028.html)**”**  [**Carl Jung**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/c/carl_jung.html)  **“As educators, parents or anyone who works with children, we must first learn to love children. Then to teach them knowledge including respect for others who may look or think differently than they do. We must never frighten, force or intimidate our children into submission. We must teach them not only personal discipline but the other tools to govern themselves. Finally, we must not only teach them knowledge including the ability to read, write and do arithmetic but how to understand and apply that knowledge to function independently in a free democratic society.”**     [**Woodie Thomas**](http://www.quoteworld.org/authors/barbara_colorose)  **48% of the USA culture is "Functionally Illiterate" which means they cannot**  **read a restaurant menu or a newspaper or fill out a job application.\***  “Definition of Literacy: The assessment defines literacy as “using printed and written  information to function in society, to achieve one’s goals, and to develop one’s knowledge and potential.”  The vast majority of these ‘functionally illiterate’ students including their parents and  other adults have some type of learning disability and/or learning disorder or co-morbidity, that  is, they have multiple learning issues, which I prefer to call “learning differently” issues the  traditional educational process has not learned to accommodate. These students lack neither the  intelligence nor are they lazy nor stupid nor unmotivated. These students are not getting the  proper diagnosis and treatment from the “Public School Educational Process” to learn even the basic skills  required to discover the magic of learning how to learn anything independently with the ability to read,   write and do arithmetic.  In order to better understand the current state of the United States public school system educational  process, review the following videos about a documentary film called “Waiting for Superman”.  CAVEAT: Neither charter schools, nor vouchers, nor private schools nor the federal Common Core   State Standards are the answer. Overall, these alternative education programs have not worked to   improve to improve student achievement and they are not an effective use of public taxpayer’s dollars.   The answer is to fix the public school system educational process not to decimate the student population  leaving behind the students who need the most help to fend for themselves or to further dilute the financial  and physical resources available to the students in the public school system. The answer is a fundamental  problem, that is, the “Educational Process” needs a revolution with a reorganization of the human and physical  resources to be more responsive to the individual learning needs of the whole student. This can be done  without additional costs to the educational process. Waiting for "Superman" is a 2010 documentary film from  director Davis Guggenheim and producer Lesley Chilcott. The film analyzes the failures of the American  public education system by following several students as they strive to be accepted into a charter school.  The film received the Audience Award for best documentary at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival.  The film also received the Best Documentary Feature at the Critics' Choice Movie Awards. Geoffrey  Canada describes his journey as an educator and his surprise when he realizes upon entering adulthood  that Superman is a fictional character and that no one is powerful enough to save us all.  Throughout the documentary, different aspects of the American public education system are examined.  Things such as the ease in which a public school teacher achieves tenure which shouldn’t be part of the K-12  public school system, self-serving teachers unions who create the illusion they raise wages, improve working  conditions and protect jobs, the inability to fire a teacher who is tenured, and how the system attempts to reprimand  poorly performing teachers are shown to have an impact on the educational environment. Teaching standards are  called into question as there is often conflicting bureaucracy between teaching expectations at the school, state or  federal level.  Statistical comparisons are made between the different types of primary or secondary educational institutions  available: state school, private school, and charter school. Statistically, these schools are no better than most public  schools. There are also comparisons made between schools in affluent neighborhoods versus schools in poorer ones.  Since charter schools do not operate with the same restrictions as public institutions, they are depicted as having a more  experimental approach to educating students.  Since many charter schools are not large enough to accept all of their applicants, the selection of students is done  by lottery. The film follows several families as they attempt to gain access to prominent charter schools for their  children.  Katie Couric on “Waiting for “Superman”  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8jepdjqZIA>  “A Conversation On Waiting For Superman”  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xzrjo7Fvs1A>  “The Inconvenient Truth About Waiting For Superman”  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLmXV4-CBOQ>  Another set of excellent videos on the state of the U.S.A. public school system was produced   for ABC's 20/20 television show where reporter John Stossel investigated why public school  students in America seem to be less well-educated than their counterparts in the rest of the World.  Mr. Stossel demonstrates he believes students in America are not less intelligent, but are  actually receiving a lesser quality of education across the board. Stossel reports, that this is due  to the United States government holding a complete monopoly over the public school system, which  generates no choice of schools for those looking to enter one. Stossel represents that this differs  from most other countries, where choice apparently brings the quality of education up. Stossel  attempts to highlight some innovative educational programs cross the US within this film. Note  that Mr. Stossel does not attempt to compare the cultural differences when comparing the nature  of the students learning issues between the countries.  “JOHN STOSSEL DOCUMENTARY STUPID IN AMERICA”  Stupid In America Documentary Part I by John Stossel  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUmcjbSHYq0>  Stupid In America Documentary Part II by John Stossel  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5mx-Mg8KSY>  Stupid In America Documentary Part III by John Stossel  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yo0nSYxFV94>  Any student, whether a young student or an older adult student may turnaround  their basic learning skills issues. This could take as little one to three months with the proper  motivation, diagnosis, treatment, master teacher instruction, educational videos and computer   software learning tools.  **“We need a revolution in public school educational process is required not merely reforms.”  “A revolution to replace the public school system is distinguished from reforms.”**  A revolution means a basic or radical change; whereas a reform may be no more than fine  tuning, or at most, redressing serious wrongs without altering the fundamentals of the system.  Reformers seek to improve the system as it stands never to revolutionize the educational system with  meaningful change to the educational process.  What we need is a meaningful educational process that is responsive to the educational needs of  the whole student not only to address the students traditional academic learning needs, but,  modernly, the educational process includes an Individual Educational Learning Plan (IELP)   to address the needs of the whole student including any learning disability, learning disorders,  social, cultural, behavioral, emotional, physical, mental health, nutritional health, parent or the   lack of one or both parent’s involvement the students’ issues and any other learning issues that   impact the students’ ability to learn.  The fundamentals of the educational process for the majority   of students and the nation have failed.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  | |  | |
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