

Notes from October 23rd Community Conversation Hosted by Donna Leslie

CHALLENGES

- Kids less prepared now
- Pay as you play – Becoming elite only
- Enrichment – Fewer gifted programs
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Therefore, not well rounded – Fewer leaders
- Kids not learning fundamentals
- Sports help mature kids
- Less working together on teams
- Teaching to standardized test
- Forcing all kids on same track
- Harder to differentiate instruction
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Harder for kids to learn
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Kids on either end of the spectrum
Who need more
- Teaching to test stifles teaching to a broader perspective
Lose critical thinking and understanding
- Kids need art as outlet for creativity
- Test misses a lot of information – eg. World History
- Teachers evaluation model changes a lot and it hurts quality of education because they are tired
- Why don't teachers go beyond teaching to test?
- Ratings are still good even with cuts
- What else should we measure?

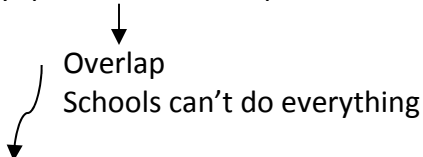
SUCSESSES

- Compassion – Character education → But... time and money to do this?
- Address the variety of needs in individual students so they all succeed
 - ✓ Jobs
 - ✓ Arts
 - ✓ Entrepreneurs
 - ✓ Etc.

- Value success
- Want achievement
- Various forms of success
- Not every kid needs to go to college to be successful
- Better talent diagnosis
 - gifts
 - skills
 - needs
 - desires

Does every kid need to learn everything? Help find a path and limit their education to that.

- Educators have to recognize these differences
 - ↳ and help kids find their own genius
- Success is not always monetary
- Discuss needs vs. wants
- Passion match skills
- Citizenship skills and contribution to community
- Key question – Role of parent vs. role of school



- Ideal of home education is not possible with some kids
- Fix state dollars to get art, sports, music
- Smaller district?
 - Emphasize character in school as they get older
- Opposite of teaching to test – Teach to community mission

- Critical thinking
- Reasoning
- Entrepreneurship
- Stuff you can't forget
- Foreign language

Teach for necessary jobs

Math, science, technology

Innovation

- Look to kids future needs
 - ↳ Ask school to research this

Human communication skills