

# Blaming Teachers is Foolish

Our education system isn't doing so well. Eight thousand students drop out of high school every day and America's students continue to perform poorly on standardized tests in comparison to the students of other countries across the globe. We're in a race to the bottom, a situation, which is unacceptable for a nation that believes itself to be a world leader. As our education system has noticeably begun failing our students, many people have put the blame squarely on teachers.

On both state and national levels, the Government has begun blaming teachers by holding them accountable to unreasonable testing and grade metrics despite the fact that there are numerous other problems that exist. The pressure of maintaining these ridiculous standards have led many teachers and school districts across the country to pass students along from one grade to the next even when the student is clearly not performing at the level required to move on.

We must stop blaming teachers for our failing education system. They aren't the only ones to blame and they shouldn't be the central focus of blame. Listed below are four major reasons why we shouldn't blame teachers for our failing education system.

## 1) The System

The K-12 public education system is a big business, and anyone who's worked for a big business knows that the worker bees are constantly the ones to blame, even though it's the executives that are responsible for making the decisions that determine success or failure.

The teachers are merely doing what they're told. In the education system, teachers are the workers bees, and it is just as absurd to blame them for the failure of our education system as it is to blame employees for the failure of a business.

The fault lies at the top where the decisions that truly make the biggest impact are being made. This includes decisions that affect budgets, technological investments, etc.

## 2) Parents

Parents are the first line of defense and offense. They have a responsibility for building an environment where learning and education are not just forced on the child but made to be an enjoyable part of the child's life. It is not enough for a parent to simply send a child off to school and hope the teacher inspires that child to care about the future. This is the parent's job as well.

## 3) Society

At times, it seems that our society doesn't value education, intellect or higher thinking. The educational system as a whole can be blamed for this as well. As a society we have decided to accept a school system that houses children in factory facilities for 8 hours a day where they are all expected to learn the same things, and act the same way like clones. One after another they are each thrown into the world with the same attributes. Each new student is no better or different than the next. What our school system and our society need to push is individualism. We cannot continue producing clones anymore!

## 4) Lack of Respect

How would you feel if every time you turned on the news during an election season, you were blamed for your profession failing and ruining the lives of millions of people? Would that encourage you to continue to stay in your field? Furthermore, how would that impact the next generation of people in your field? This is what's happening in teaching. We are demonizing teachers so badly that eventually classrooms will be without teachers, because no one will be inspired to teach.

In summary, the failure of our education system can't be blamed on one group of individuals. The blame must be placed on all of us. If we each do our part, we can turn the system around and give our children the foundation they need to succeed in the future.