

North Coast Tutoring Services

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"The Education Problem-Solvers"

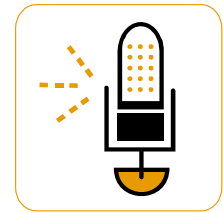
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Who's Winning the Blame Game?

Every day when I read the morning paper or look at a national news site on the internet, I see the game is continuing. It goes on as every village, town, and city struggles with its finances.

Our public schools are in trouble all over the country. Everyone wants to point fingers and blame someone else for school failures. Who are the players?

Start with school district executives. They all want to defend themselves.

Then we come to the teachers and their unions. They argue that they do the best they can with limited resources. Next we have the parents who feel the schools should do more and do it better.

We must include the students in the game. Students who fall behind and don't perform well express dissatisfaction with school.

Those are the main players: school districts, teachers, parents and students. We

could also include the media because it has a voice – sometimes right and sometimes wrong.

All of the people in these groups are playing the game and blaming others for poor school performance. I guess I'm not surprised because it's so easy to do.

In reality, the media just swirls the blame around in circles while no one steps up to the plate to make substantive change in our education system.

What's a Parent To Do?

It's pretty obvious that every person included in "the game" is or was a parent (at least a relative). So it seems obvious that it is in the best interest of all parents to help make every school better. By improving the schools we improve our villages, towns, cities, states and the whole country.

Criticism and blame don't accomplish anything unless they are accompanied by sound and reasoned action. In theory, at least, every community has the

ability to consider options and take positive action.

There is a quiet crisis in the United States. More and more children are left behind because they are not learning the basics – reading skills and math skills.

As the world and community becomes more complex and relies on more sophisticated technology, those kids with poor skills or no skills cannot be expected to thrive.

It's truly tragic when we think about the futures of illiterate children and adults trying to make their way in our expanding and complex world.

Collectively, as parents and citizens, we must face the problem, determine reasoned and reasonable solutions, and take positive steps to improve our education system.

Inaction is not a viable alternative.