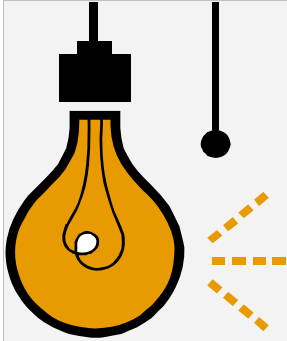


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Can We Demand Results?

We have become a very outspoken society about so many things, can we be outspoken about education? Of course we can. Are we outspoken about education?

NO!

We let many schools continue to teach the way they did 30, 40 or 50 years ago. Are these old theories working with prospective teachers?

NO!

Are teachers to blame?

Are schools and school districts to blame? Are parents to blame? Are the children to blame? Are unions to blame? Are tests to blame? Are state education departments to blame? Is the federal government to blame?

YES! All of the above.

So what can we do about it?

Here are some ideas that will help raise the bar.

1. Insist that teacher colleges teach basic



reading and math METHODS in addition to theory.

2. Train existing teachers in basic reading and math METHODS.

3. Provide realistic accommodations for children with learning disabilities.

4. Treat each child as an individual (not as part of a group) and with respect.

See? That wasn't so difficult. We can begin to improve education and then actually demand results.

No Child Left Behind

Now six years old, the NCLB Act has mixed results. Sadly the State of Ohio has abdicated leadership of NCLB programs leaving each school district to cope with rules, policy and federal legislation. The results are often tragic. Children receive little or no benefit as good money slips into greedy hands. In Cuyahoga County, Ohio, there are about 240 "approved" providers. With \$1,500 to \$2,000 per child available, lots of

people and companies see a quick road to riches. Even Cuyahoga County itself became a provider.

In the entire state of Massachusetts there are only 11 approved providers. In Oregon there are only 6 approved providers.

In Ohio the requirements are minimal. Several other states require completion of a 30-page application.

Can this lack of control by

the Ohio Department of Education give any comfort to parents or tax payers? Obviously not.

However, the fortune hunters come to the Cleveland district and scoop up 100s of children by promising computers, cash and other incentives.

Many providers use one teacher for 8 children at \$50 per hour, per child.

Ohio helps NCLB deserve the poor grades it gets.