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The Carsey School & The Commission to
Study School Funding

<https://carsey.unh.edu/school-funding>

Subject: **American Education System**

**This is not difficult to understand.
If we don't do it – It doesn't get done !!!**



“Everyone is a genius – BUT – if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”

Albert Einstein

I like the saying, “**You don't know – What you don't know”.**

Anonymous

WOW – WOW – WOW

The following links validate exactly why the topic of this letter is important and should have been acted upon way before **NOW !!!**

Link (1) – 05/11/2019 – NBC Nightly News: Adulting School – Life Skills: A Growing Number of Programs Teach Life Skills to Millennials
<http://www.RoyceFamily.com/Videos/20190511-Adulting101.mp4>

What good is knowledge if you can't do anything ?!?!?

Link (2) – 10/04/2020 – This is how a bad education is taught in some parts of America and why we need a National Standard on Education across America:

Black Lives Matters in Milwaukee Classrooms

<http://www.RoyceFamily.com/Videos/20201004-MilwaukeeClassrooms.mp4>

I expect these kinds of curriculum problems are throughout America !!!

NH Representative, Mel Myler, gave me your contact information and suggested that I submit my thoughts to your committee.

I am entering my input here because of a continuing of “Adequate Education” series of stories that have been going on for many years – YET – Nothing – OR – Very little has been done to solve the underlining problems of addressing an “Adequate Education” directly !!!

I am NOT an “Academic”, I am a computer developer and support specialist with over 40 years of identifying & solving problems.

I LOVE the computer world because a computer will continue to do the save activity until it is changed to give a different result (hopefully of what is wanted and needed).

The truth is – We **ARE NOT** educating our children !!! This has been going on for many generations and it shows in situations like the 01/06/2021 Riot at the Capitol. Just look around everywhere, people do not **THINK** of consequences of their actions.

An **American Education System** will not stop all “Stupidness” from happening – BUT – Will start the mind going in the right direction !!!

I realize your commission is not thinking “Nationally” – BUT – consider how the NH boundaries would interlock “Nationally” and how other States ideas would interlock with NH. Afterall, people move around and if all students had the exposure to “American Thoughts”, we would ALL be better off. We would be headed down the road of NOT NEEDING “Social Justice Causes” (Link (2) here). **What radicle thoughts !!!**

Maybe even ‘Pulitzer’ & ‘Nobel’ Prize level of greatness !!!

I believe (as most others) it is ridiculous for the Academic Community to continue “Trying” to change our education system to educate our students !!!

By now, I would expect the Academic Community would realize America needs an **American Education System** that would educate ALL students. Put “good stuff” into young people’s minds than the “junk” they are fed today. Everything is learned – Even hatred & prejudice.

A good movie I like about education is “Lean on me”. No matter what you think about “Corporal Punishment”, EVERYONE needs discipline in their life – At ALL ages !!! If you have never needed “Corporal Punishment” – GREAT !!! People choose to fail – OR – choose to be GREAT – It takes education to learn the difference between what is “Right” or “Wrong” !!! People **LEARN** to be “delinquents” !!!

100% of what you and I “**Do**” OR “**Don’t Do**”, every second of every day affects our Ourselves / Family / Neighborhood / Community / State / Country / World !!!

NOW – multiply by the number of humans on our “Spaceship”, Earth, you can understand the complexities we are talking about here.

100% of learning to **THINK**, should occur in K-12. Radical changes need to happen in our current education model to achieve this.

It is utterly ridiculous that, in America, we have so many school systems that parents must choose where to live for their children to “have” or “not have” a good education.

What we need is an **American Education System** – same curriculum across the country (East coast, West coast, North & South – Urban, Rural). There should **not** be “Rich”, “Poor”, “Charter”, “Private”, “Religious” schools or any other nonsense !!! Give ALL American students the same education (White, Black, Immigrants, Genders, Religions, etc., etc.). We spend a massive amount of money on education today with very little to show for it. If a teacher or school system has a better way to teach a subject, pass it on to all school systems !!! We already have teacher conferences – **Learn something** !!!

Being a computer specialist for over 40 years, I have no idea why textbooks are still being purchased & maintained. Textbooks are out of date before they are printed. If I was in charge, I would think of a way to give every student a tablet to view all textbook materials as well as doing schoolwork and utilizing the power of the Internet.

“Life Skills” (Link (1) here) needed for daily life should be taught (and **learned !!!**) at K-12 level such as: Common Sense – Respect & Consideration of others – Communication Skills – Penmanship (Print & Cursive (**Do you realize that many schools have already dropped cursive writing all together ?!?! This is “nuts” – How does this happen ?!??!** Over time, **NO ONE IN AMERICA WILL BE ABLE TO READ & WRITE !!!**

An example of what “Real Education” should look like:

Link (3) – 05/20/2018 – NBC Nightly News: Cursive Writing & Pen Pals
<http://www.RoyceFamily.com/Videos/20180520-CursiveWriting.mp4>

Things that every person uses daily need to be taught and learned well – Reading – Writing – English – Math (not only math – BUT – how to use it – home finances (how to RENT or BUY a home, automobile, etc., save and invest money) – measuring – conversions – etc., etc., etc.) – Critical Thinking – Science – History – Health – Career paths – etc., etc., etc. Very few of these subjects are being taught well because the connections are not being made as to **“WHY”** every student needs to **“LEARN”**.

Communication skills are of the utmost importance (written & verbal):
As I recall “letters” & “numbers” are taught in First Grade. Every student should continue to write each letter clearly through life – with no exceptions. It is the “laziness” of teachers that do not hold every student accountable for writing clearly in every class through to graduation. After 12 years of writing clearly, I expect this skill to carry on through life.

What **SHOULD NOT** be taught is a lot of stuff that is career specific related such as: Algebra & Calculus (the only thing I remember about Calculus is the word “Calculus” – When was the last time you used it ?!?! – **YES**, just as I thought !!! ALL wasted time that a student could be learning something important). If a student has a good understanding of “daily” math and if his/her job requires this knowledge, extended math learning will come easily to meet the needs of their career.

Education could be taught for so much less money. No student needs to dissect anything in Science or use a microscope (hence, money saved for these teaching resources). Again, if a person has learned how to **THINK** and someone's career requires this knowledge, these skills could be learned easily.

Again, obviously, I am not an "Academic" – BUT – as an Adjunct Professor, I have taught many semesters of computer related classes at NH Technical Institute in Concord, NH. My students were from tech. school students to Grandma / Grandpa. It was challenging figuring out how to get everyone working together. To do this, I had the more advanced students work with students that needed more help. Much was learned by ALL students.

One of my students was a Full-Time Professor at Manchester Tech. He was the first one into class and the last to leave. At the end of the class, I asked, "What did you **THINK** of my class ?". He said, "The best class he had ever taken and took much of my teaching style to his classroom". The "craziness" here is that I can't teach Kindergarten, Elementary or High School (I am not "certified").

I remember being a student many years ago and applied this knowledge to my classroom achieving outstanding results. I bring this to your attention only because "certification" has absolutely nothing to do with a person's ability to achieving GREAT results !!!

This is not just me, we, in America, disallow sooooo many natural skills in sooooo many careers because of "silly rules" that "handicap" achievement.

That's it – NO College necessary !!! Currently, it is "Blackmail" to withhold good paying jobs from people that could be exceptional employees that don't have a college degree.

Just **STOP & THINK**, it is NOT even possible to become an exceptional "Reporter" / "Producer" / "Director" / "IT Professional" / "Doctor" / "Teacher" / "Truck Driver" or anything else in college. The only thing colleges are for are colleges themselves !!! Most college debt will never be paid off & **STOPS** or delays many life's decisions (starting a family, buying a house & car, etc.). **How did we get into this ridiculous discipline of graduating from high school – only to go to college ?!??!**

Anyway, compared to college graduates, a college education would have held me back from my natural ability to “**THINK** & produce exceptional results” and I would have had to work at the level at what college educated computer specialists work at today. I have had these discussions with my Doctors – They agree !!!

My Primary Care Doctor told me recently that he likes talking with me because “I have simple solutions to complex problems”.

Actually, there aren’t any “complex problems” – there are only problems that need to be solved !!!

As a computer programmer, all I need is some idea as to what my employer / client wants to achieve and then work backwards to create these results. Anyone can do it – It just takes the ability to **THINK** & practice.

Step 1 (Education):

As I said before, 100% of learning to **THINK**, should occur in K-12. Radical changes need to happen in our current education model to achieve this.

Step 2 (Beyond Education):

Every person needs to THINK about what interests them, what do they have to offer, what do they want to do with the rest of their life, what does America need;

Do they want to be a housewife / househusband, sales clerk, mechanic, teacher, computer specialist, doctor, lawyer, Indian Chief, etc., etc., etc. (there is no end to this list). Parents, Guidance Counselors, other students, friends, community leaders and employers can help in this process.

Step 3 (Take steps necessary to achieve steps 1 & 2):

Instead of spending money on education that will NEVER be used, they apply for entry level positions and can be hired by a company and be paid to learn from the best leaders of a company and grow working their way up to any level achievable (with **NO** education debt). The reality is that anyone can learn anything if they have an interest in the subject **AND** has learned “**How to THINK**”.

I listen to public radio daily, there is much news and comic material about the dysfunction & cost of college education. If you do not see or hear this, it is because you are trapped in the college hype and you will only grow within the bounds of your college education. I have many direct supporting examples in auto mechanics and computer programming that demonstrate exactly what I am talking about that continue to stifle America's growth without even knowing it (just ask me).

As an example, take *60 Minutes* Correspondents, Executives and Producers (ALL positions at CBS). Most are probably college educated (I don't hold that against them, that was the "standard" at the time – and still is today). Anyway, they ALL could have graduated from high school and gone right into their current job as an intern (with NO college education) learning from other journalists' and growing into their current position (with NO college debt). This is TRUE for ANY position in any company & industry !!!

Morley Safer: *60 Minutes* Correspondent – only had 2 weeks of college.
(A very long career retiring 05/15/2016 – So sorry he died a few days later.)

Lesley Stahl: *60 Minutes* Correspondent – was hired under the Affirmative Action Program (Very interesting NHPR Word of Mouth 05/22/2016
"Writers on a New England Stage"
<http://nhpr.org/post/writers-new-england-stage-lesley-stahl>"

An example of becoming a Doctor and / or a Veterinarian:

Before I graduated from high school, I would apply for a medical position in a doctor's office, clinic or hospital. Working with experienced medical technicians, the first week, I might help patients how to make out medical forms, patient transportation and interact with patients. As the needs arise and my abilities improved, I would learn how to take vital signs (blood pressure, temperature, etc.). Continuing my learning, I would give shots, how to use medical & diagnosis equipment, etc., etc., etc.

Becoming a Doctor might take as long as going to medical school – BUT – WITHOUT \$500,000 or more DEBT (and may make a little money) !!!
Along the way, I may find I do not want to become a Doctor. Maybe an X-Ray Technician is a job I like doing. As these positions (or others) become available, I would become a fully paid staff member.

An example of becoming a Teacher:

Before I graduated from high school, I would apply for a teaching position in a local or world-wide school. Initially, I may be a “Teacher’s Aide”. As I advanced in my teaching duties & there is a need for a full-time teacher, I could step into my own classroom – WITHOUT \$50,000 or more DEBT (and may make a little money) !!!

I may find I do not like working in the “Health” or “Education” field. I may find “Carpentry” more interesting as a career path. No problem – I have lost a little “Time” – BUT – I am not “In Debt”.

The proper skills to have are the ability to “Learn what is needed even if it has not been done before”. This is why, to learn **“How to Learn”** in K-12 is of utmost importance.

Can’t you see how easy this process would work for any position in any industry (CEO, CFO, CTO, Banker, Producer, Reporter, Weatherman, Secretary, Liberian, Truck Driver, Carpenter, Electrician, Welder, Computer & Energy Specialist, (again, there is no end to this list), industries & jobs that have not been invented yet) ?!?!?

Of course, most starting positions may only pay minimum wage – OR – NO PAY at all. The ONLY limits are one’s interests and abilities to learn (OH, did I mention – NO DEBT ?!?!).

Education Problems & Solutions:

Hopefully, I have wet your appetite enough to learn of more information. There is much to be done. Until we start the process – **we have – what we have.**

It all boils down to what do we want America to look and feel like:

(1) What needs to be done ?

(a) Do we want unprepared students entering career fields ?

(b) Do we want high debt starting our new career ?

(We have to work many years just to have “ZERO DEBT”

and chances are we will NEVER become “DEBT FREE”.

Again, listening to Public Radio, I have learned many college graduates say their college loan doubles or triples before they

even start paying – AND – Never expect to pay it off unless they have an exceptional high-paying job.)

- (c) Do we want low productivity ?
- (d) Do we want an undisciplined work force and life stile ?
- (e) etc., etc., etc. (there is no end to this list either)

If so, “we have arrived” and there is nothing to be done.

(2) Take the necessary steps to achieve expected results !!!

(3) Have you seen the TV shows *Botched* or *Botched by Nature* ?
The doctors always say they have “not seen such a case”. The point being everyone will run into problems that will need to be solved – **THINK** things through.

In Summary:

An exceptional **American Education System** would solve many of our societies problems at much LESS COSTS than we pay now (No matter your Color, Nationality, Religion, Financial Status, etc. – We will all have the same “Basic Education” – Our citizens could **THINK CLEARLY**, tell the difference between “Right” & “Wrong”, be respectful of others and go forward to build a Family, Career and a **GREAT America**). Very simply, if we don’t do it – It doesn’t get done.

Once you understand what you want to accomplish, only then can you **THINK** about what it should cost !!!

A little about myself:

My Elementary years were at Chichester Central, Chichester, NH.
I was not a good student because I did not know “why” I needed to learn.
I learned better at Concord High School, Concord, NH (Class of 1962).

I was the IT Director / Systems Analyst / Programmer for the Concord School District from 1979 to 1989 (Best job I ever had because I was FREE to solve user’s problems. I would still be there today if not for budget cuts – Oh, well).

I am now basically retired – BUT – am always open to help where I can.
I maintain a database of Concord High School Graduates from 1907 through 2020 (31,640 students) and add each current year.

I maintain my Class of 1962 information and Website:
<http://www.RoyceFamily.com/CHS/> which includes Alumni Reunion data from 1937 through 2020
(Classes update their info as they like – Some better than others):
<http://www.RoyceFamily.com/CHS/Alumni/alumnireunions.html>

Please contact me for other thoughts on this subject.