

# Our School System is Faulted

---

In a world full of radiant colours, students of all ages and diverse personalities have their own canvases stripped of colour. Every day, students begrudgingly pull themselves out of bed. Their tired eyes have seen the same four walls of the class for several years, confining them to the limited life that a school has to offer. Their decisions have been brought down within three separate options. Their knowledge, their grades, and their passions. Students raise their pencils to mark down on their test. The test of not only numbers and words, but their decisions. They become torn between their options and as the years flip through just as the pages in their textbooks, they tend to opt away from what truly matters most to them. In place of opening these students eyes to the outside world, the education system has made a shell to keep the students in place towards the same path. One that does not branch out into different endings as to what the students desire but more for the same skewed perception of success. What they thought was the right way turned out to be the wrong. They try to take a step off that path but something pulls them back. Something of a set of signs, a system, which has directed them on their entire walk. This system set up by schools almost everywhere we look. The school system that has given the students a false desire of where to look for success. Even though we are exposed to it within almost every waking our it still remains a silent phantasm. This school system that has been worked on so much to perfect is still flawed, no matter the perspective in which we look at it.

This seems rough, does it not? That is the only way that the school system has been set up with standardized testing. The government's attempt at testing our students can become a higher issue for learning. Within learning only to be tested on it give the students a "read and regurgitate" mentality (*Sierra Armstrong, 2016*). Opposing to the intent of testing as to conceptualize the concepts within the test to retain it, students will always have this tendency to store the information for a few days and forget it afterward. After approximately two days, the decline in memorization decreases sharply. After six days humans will completely forget about what they have learned. Standardized testing is highly influenced as those in charge of designing the education system have prioritized the number of concepts that a student can learn within a span of ten months rather than how the student can actually learn and master it. With that, we do often see students

forget concepts every new school year and thus, the students have to go back to revisit and most likely completely relearn subjects from the year prior.

When going through to memorize concepts, students are forced to deal with a great amount of stress due to the way our education system has set them up. There is so much to do, it can become a burden. Many students spend many of their after-school hours with their jobs, extracurricular activities, and the volunteer work that schools send us to do. This makes it impossible to get through different tasks from homework, assignments, projects, and presentations that they have to get done. With this fairly large amount of work put on the students, there is a large chance that they will eventually burn out. From a study conducted at Harvard School of Public Health, half of our student population feel a great amount of stress when it comes to their academic work along with managing other tasks (*Patti Neighmond, 2013*). Should parents and teachers not be upset when the students are suffering this way? When there is too much put on the weight of the students, the education system is most definitely setting the students up for failure. When students are exposed to stress, they will not be able to focus during lectures and will not learn the concepts presented to them, worsens their grades, and decreases their sleep. (*Douglas Carlson, 2016*). All of these three things, the school system wants to be good for their students. Afterwards, the system tends to sugarcoat how much the happiness of the students is a priority to them.

Nevertheless, there have been a few good things to come from this system. The flexibility is the main aspect that pertains to it. The flexibility of the education we receive has been publicly promoted. Every bit of education that we receive is free of charge and there are many diversities to the schools that students attend. The fact that everyone is accepted to study is remarkable. Although, when things seem too good to be true they usually are a mirage. If the school system was to accept everyone this way it shows that the education system is open for every student to have success but once the students reach the end of highschool and go to college level as they are told, it becomes a different story. The thought that most high schools push you to reach for college and university in order to be successful is a problem in itself. When the students actually come around to attempting at these universities and colleges then it is a different story. Students are always encouraged to go to the top of schools that they can get into. When it comes down to acceptance rates with all of these other candidates besides you then it can become perturbing when you are not chosen. That is why we cannot simply use the availability in defense of the school system. At this, free education does, in fact, stop at the end of high

school. If we are to be “successful,” the school education system would like us to pay for our higher degrees that will get us a perfect job. Even though, there is no guarantee of even getting a job with a degree at all.

Here is a thought. It may be hard to believe but give it a listen. If you heard the sentence “the school system is making kids less intelligent,” what would you think? Of course, when it settles in your mind there’s no way this could be correct as students attend schooling for the purpose of learning and gaining more knowledge. If anyone has had any experience with school then they would know how important it is to get “good grades” in math, science, and other subjects that are pushed upon students. Student success has been measured by these grades. As previously mentioned, standardized testing always focuses on subjects such as math and science. This itself can prove that the creativity based subjects are never the first priority to the school system. By knowing that, we can tell that school has never had true care for creative based programs. The education system has given the students this one-way mentality of go through elementary school, high school, and the final step to college. By doing that, they have diminished the creativity of the students. Their ability to think outside the box is slowly deteriorating. If a young kindergartener was asked what they wanted to be when they were older and they said an astronaut. As they got older it would be constantly thrown at the student that it would be hard to achieve this goal and they wouldn’t be able to attain it. They would change their mind and give up. In a study conducted by Gordon Mackenzie, different students ranging from kindergarten to grade eight were asked if they were an artist. In the kindergarten classroom, most students raised their hands. When the older grades were asked, less of them had identified themselves as an artist. (*Scott Thorp, n.d*) This shows the more responsibility in school they have, the less they focus on creativity. They are told of how much studying and grades it would take to get to what they want. If we looked at a few successful people in our lifetime such as Steve Jobs who dropped out of college to create Apple, one of the biggest companies of all time. Or Bill Gates who dropped out two years into university to create Microsoft (*Abigail Hess, 2017*). These two men are perfect examples of how there are two types of intelligence. Yes, they needed to go through school for academic intelligence, but what brought them to their success was their creative intelligence. That is why it is difficult to come across these successful people as by going with the school system we have, student’s creative intellect is never nurtured. That one pathway that students find themselves going through will not make them as smart as the school system teaches them they will be.

So that is a perfect example as to why we should not be blind to what is going on in front of us. The school system is not teaching kids correctly. They are growing up to be cynical and straying away from how they can build their own paths to being successful. However, there ways to fix our school system here as we should be following the European style. There, they focus on the creative side of the curriculum and make sure that the students are within their own way to success. Over years time many people from North and South America have stepped up to say all of these same things about the school system and over years time, nothing has changed. The testing given does not further any knowledge and neither does throwing a huge workload at the students. Why is it that so many working on the head of these systems are comfortable with watching the students suffer and fail themselves when the clear need to change and how to change is right there. The school system needs to stop disguising themselves as something that will empower students as it refuses to see the changes that need to be made. So let us start doing exactly what is supposed to be done. Start encourage students through more than one type of intelligence. Stop telling them that there is only one way to be successful. Let us create a split in that one-way path and send our students to a future that did not only get to by academics but, themselves.

## *Citations: Our School System is Faulted*

---

1. *Sierra Armstrong*, (December 26, 2017), **The Problems With the Public Education System**", Retrieved from:  
<https://www.theodysseyonline.com/problems-public-education-system>
2. *Pauline Hawkins*, (April 26, 2014) **"The Faults in Our Education System: A Student's Perspective"**, Retrieved from:  
<https://paulinehawkins.com/2014/04/25/the-faults-in-our-education-system-a-students-perspective/>
3. *Eddy Zhong + TedxTalk* (February 6, 2015), **"How School Makes Kids Less Intelligent"**, Retrieved from:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Yt6raj-S1M>
4. *Abigail Cox*, (March 9, 2018), **"The Current Education System is Failing our Students"**, Retrieved from:

<https://edsurgeindependent.com/the-current-education-system-is-failing-our-students-b35614943541>

5. *Patti Neighmond* (December 2, 2013), “**School Stress Takes a Toll On Health, Teens and Parents Say**”, Retrieved from:  
<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2013/12/02/246599742/school-stress-takes-a-toll-on-health-teens-and-parents-say>
6. *Scott Thorp* (N/A), “**ARE KIDS REALLY MORE CREATIVE THAN ADULTS?**”, Retrieved from:  
<https://scottthorp.wordpress.com/2014/07/03/are-kids-really-more-creative-than-adults/>
7. *Abigail Hess* (May 10th, 2017), “**10 ultra-successful millionaire and billionaire college dropouts**”, Retrieved from:  
<https://www.cnn.com/2017/05/10/10-ultra-successful-millionaire-and-billionaire-college-dropouts.html>
8. *Douglas Carlson* (September 21st, 2016), “**3 Ways Stress Negatively Impacts Students’ Performance**”, Retrieved from:  
<https://fosteredu.pennfoster.edu/3-ways-stress-negatively-affects-student-performance>