

Education in America is Being Shunned

By Max Cloud

The PISA or Program for International Students Assessment, is given every three years in many countries to assess 15-year-olds in different countries in academics. The recent results showed that one-fifth of students in the U.S. lacked the reading ability of students grades below them and the U.S. ranked below most countries in math¹. So what is the issue? I think it's that many schools in America aren't funded enough to give kids the education they need. There's plenty of evidence behind this. While students in New York are getting more than 8,000 dollars per student², students in the poorest districts in America, receive less than 1,000 dollars in state funding³. When schools aren't funded well, they can get forced to take classes like art and music classes out of their curriculum. Many students love school because of those classes and if you take them away the classes kids might stop trying or going to school in general. If kids don't get a good education, their odds of being in the poverty cycle dramatically increases.

There is a clear issue here that both state and the federal government needs to increase funding. Part of the issue is that some states get more money than others because of how wealthy the state and the people in the state have. If each school gets the same amount of funding then how good the school depends on the neighborhood. Schools in more wealthy neighborhoods get more money from private donations and tax money. In less wealthy neighborhoods kids get underfunded an education which can lead to low paying jobs. An example of this is that in Illinois schools in the most underfunded areas receive up to 22 percent less funding than the more wealthy areas in other states.⁴

A clear answer to this is for the federal and state government to give extra funding to underfunded areas (even if it means pulling funding from more wealthy neighborhoods)so students in underfunded areas can have a better education, get a better job to bring money into the previously underfunded area. This would bring businesses and more jobs to the areas so people make more money. When the neighborhood is wealthy enough they can help fund their own schools and the government can focus funding other areas. I go to a well-funded school, and I hate to think across the country students are lacking the resources and opportunity. There are many underfunded areas in America, but they can be turned around by funding schools better to educate people. We all have to show the government we care about the issue while pitching in the dotations we can to help fund schools.

¹ "Teachers and Other Readers Sound Off on International Exam" 3 Dec. 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/03/us/pisa-results-us.html>. Accessed 6 Feb. 2020.

² "The States That Spend the Most (and the Least) on Education." <https://www.governing.com/topics/education/gov-education-funding-states.html>. Accessed 6 Feb. 2020.

³ "Poorest School Districts Get Less Funding - US News & World" 27 Feb. 2018, <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/2018-02-27/in-most-states-poorest-school-districts-get-less-funding>. Accessed 6 Feb. 2020.

⁴ "Poorest School Districts Get Less Funding - US News & World" 27 Feb. 2018, <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/2018-02-27/in-most-states-poorest-school-districts-get-less-funding>. Accessed 6 Feb. 2020.