

Karen Jackson

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My name is Karen Jackson a Parent Leader in my community I belong to is in Bridgeport, Connecticut where for over 8yrs the State and the District/LEA, Parents, and the teachers have failed our children of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Accountability is great to measure and pursue however there must be accountability across the board which includes the Local Educational Agency (LEA). According to NCLB the LEA failure to educate our children the LEA must be dissolved and children sent to the neighboring LEA's or give jurisdiction of the failing schools to the surrounding LEA's and allow those educational dollars to follow them. Hopefully the socialization will allow them to realize that ebonics is not a world language. Whilst keeping the MAGNET SCHOOLS in Bridgeport while creating the proposed new MAGNET SCHOOLS. So Bridgeport can start with a clean slate so to speak.

Creating for profit charter schools are not the answer. For profit charter schools must maintain a 17% profit yearly that in itself is not monetarily conducive for Bridgeport, Connecticut educational needs. Currently Global Partnership has control of Harding High School in Bridgeport as a charter school. The 11th and 12th graders cannot take the CMT LAB test because there is no SCIENCE LAB in the school. When attendance is taken in the morning at Harding High School it does not represent the student leaving the school in the middle of the day at 12 and still be marked present in school for the day. So the Parent is not aware of the child skipping school and Global Partnership can keep on getting money for that child being present but learning nothing. Harding High School has no playing field the students have to walk 6 blocks through busy intersections to get to a non-toxic playing field to play football. For profit charter schools were initiated to test scientific methods of curricula that can be used in schools. It was not meant to be a permanency goal. For profit charter schools are housed prisons for our children not bringing forth a better educated child.

The educational dollars should and must go to scientifically researched based schools like the Catholic Schools which have proven over a 50yrs that they can produce students that are college ready. Independent schools like Green Farms Academy with those educational dollars proposed by the Governor can create satellite schools. Jewish Schools of which I am a product that have discipline and have a proven record of educating children and making them college ready.

Another way we can help our children is lower the age to work to 14 years old aligned with Mass. New York and New Jersey States. It will lessen murders, incarceration, and future welfare recipients and uneducated, ignorant future leaders. I am not blind to the criminal activity of our children. As a teacher in Bridgeport public school system I worked in Central High school where the teachers called a particular classroom I taught in called the dungeon. Out of the 25 children I taught 18 had leg bracelets which

makes them according to the 13th amendment they are slaves. So there must be programs that can be developed that can deal with the transition from high school to work career based to hire programs. Like Groundwork Bridgeport which employs teens to plant and maintain free gardens throughout Bridgeport just upon request.

Last but not least a two population that seems to be not though of are the transgenerational PARENTS who are grandparents who are Parents again. Over 40% of Bridgeport Parents are GrandParents again according Child Guidance which is the only agency in Bridgeport addressing the Grandparents as Parents a 2nd time around. We in Bridgeport need desperately a community center that deals directly with the these families including but limited to housing and emotional needs not being met.

The second population is the LEP Parents. Violate a 1964 federal law to communicate with people in their own language. Parents who speak Arabic, Hindu, Mandarian Traditional and simplified along with Korean. If Parents were communicated with in their own language then we would have more Parents having the choice to participate in their childrens school events and educational needs.

NotE: I was diasappointed to knwo I could not testify when I arrived at 12noon for the Educational Committee Hearing. The 1st hour should have been set aside for the ublic/Parents for any non-profit , State staffer or a member of the legislature.

Sincerely,

Karen Jackson Parent Leader