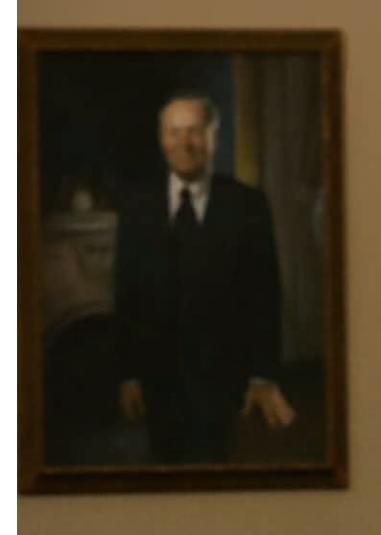


THE EPOCH TIMES

AMERICAN CROSSROADS





Constitutional scholars (L-R) Noah Feldman of Harvard University, Pamela Karlan of Stanford University, Michael Gerhardt of the University of North Carolina, and Jonathan Turley of George Washington University are sworn in prior to testifying before the House Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Dec. 4, 2019.



IMPEACHMENT PROFS:

WELCOME TO MY WORLD

See Page 2



Impeachment Profs: Welcome to My World

MARY GRABAR



Donald Trump.

Welcome to my world all you people appalled by the testimony of professors presenting Constitutional grounds for impeaching President Are you disgusted by the display of

feminist rage, graduate student earnestness, and droning about the "framers" by tenured elites who have built careers presenting the Constitution as a "living document"?

Ha! Welcome to my world where I spent 20 years until 2013 studying and teaching college English. I would still be in that world, having

to listen to morning-after faculty lounge debates about the relative merits of these three scholars, were it not for the fact that a department chair, and then a college president, did not like op-eds I wrote, because the First Amendment applied only to people with their views. Then the privately funded program under which I was teaching at Emory University ended.

It's not that I could get beyond the lowpaying year-to-year contracts. My thesis and dissertation focused on dead white male cis-gendered (with no "homosexual," or even "homo-social" tendencies)

Christian writers. So I never had a chance. During my years of struggle, I would try to convey what it was like to those on the outside–family members, friends, and people I met. I described the witchy

cackling at meetings, screams about oppression from lecterns, inquisitorial stares from colleagues passing by in hallways, and examples of "scholarship"—like the poster with the giant phallus (and more that I can't describe in this forum) adorning the office door of the head of "Sexuality Studies," which was within the English department at Emory. Every day I trudged past that looming phallus, above the poster of Shakespeare in drag advertising a "Shakesqueer" conference.

Oh, that's just those crazy English professors, said people in the business world and in the sciences. They looked at me slant-eyed after I stammered, "but, but ... the giant phallus, and ..."

Today, the standards of academe have infiltrated the business world. My former skeptics on the political right no longer post political comments on Facebook. Techies such as James Damore and CEOs are fired for their words and actions that have nothing to do with their job performance. Math and science professors are required to sign statements pledging allegiance to diversity, which means admitting less-qualified women and minorities. They're required to believe their magical diverse powers will ensure that bridges do not collapse and patients, with their skulls cut open on the operating table, do not die. They must embrace Afrocentric math, "women's ways of knowing" anatomy, and the path-breaking theory of Lysenkoism.

My world was the faculty lounge (the office with broken-down furniture where several instructors at one time

held "office hours"). It's a world where even such poorly paid hacks thought they were better, smarter, and holier than the majority of Americans and 100 percent of Republicans.

These [profs], unlike mortals, do not need facts. This was true about Donald Trump's election. They 'knew' there was cause to impeach him immediately after the election, and they said so to their students.

These people need not even look at evidence or consider scholarly shoddiness because they know that if it comes from the wrong source, it is wrong, as an Amazon review respondent who agreed with commentator "Prof. JayG" that I had not cited "any evidence" in my book "Debunking Howard Zinn," affirmed. My book is simply "right-wing trash." No doubt, philosophy professor David Detmer still believes I suffer from "Zinnophobia." Such "profs" do not need to read entire books and review footnotes because of their superior abilities to "deconstruct" texts. The deconstructionist theorists I had to read in graduate school saw the real meaning of an author's words. While

mere mortals may attach the signifier (the word) to the signified (the thing or concept), the deconstructionists could see beyond. They used this ability to also discern the motives of outsiders: white people, heterosexuals, men, Republicansand those inside and outside these groups (excluding Republicans) who did not adhere to their ever-evolving standards of what today is called "wokeness."

These people, unlike mortals, do not need facts. This was true about Donald Trump's election. They knew there was cause to impeach him immediately after the election, and they said so to their students. I saw this here in Clinton, New York. Mere days after the election, professors chaperoned students from Hamilton College on the "hill" to the village square, where they marched and yelled "Impeach!" before they got on the luxury buses for the mile-and-a-half ride back to

This ability to see beyond evidence has been honed for a long time. Back when a few middle-class Americans dared to form a "tea party" movement to protest with speeches, bunting, and prayer against the newly elected "global citizen" President Barack Obama's agenda of "transforming" this country, the Ph.D.s and other super-intellects discerned that this was not really the desire of lawabiding, hard-working Americans to prevent their country from turning into Cuba. They knew, just knew, that this

So were the questions about Obama's longtime "god-damning America" pastor,

Weatherman friend Bill Ayers, brobuddy Hugo Chavez, and Communist Party USA mentor Frank Marshall Davis. Obama's fundraising party comments about "bitter" Bible- and gun-toting Americans were simple truth. His declaration of being able to rule with his pen and phone was not any threat to the Constitutional separation of powers at all. The Obama Youth Brigade Formation's chants of "because of Obama I'm inspired to be the next" architect, engineer, lawyer, etc., repeating points of Obama's platform, and shouts of "Yes, we can!" were signs of reju-

Whereas professors had proudly sported bumper stickers proclaiming "Somewhere in Texas a village has lost its idiot" during the George W. Bush administration, they recognized Obama's words as poetic genius.

venated youthful optimism.

Michelle Obama, a broad-shouldered statuesque woman was treated like the most beautiful and fashionable woman in the world–even when she dressed up like a giant banana. But a supermodel married to a Republican can have no fashion sense. Melania Trump's white coat in a Christmas video among white-themed Christmas decorations, "exude[d] cold, dismissive aloofness"—so unlike the Santa Clausy Mao Christmas tree decorations in the Obama White House!

The fact that such reactionary outlets such as Fox News reported this as if there was something wrong with having the author of the famous Little Red Book on the tree alongside a drag queen and Obama etched into Mount Rushmore proves how close-minded they are. They're incapable of seeing the brilliance of a theory developed by the natural genius Karl Marx whose social justice work was supported by the wealthy industrialist Friedrich Engels. (And isn't it nice that George Soros and other billionaires support similar scholarship these days?)

Marx understood history so well because he had deconstructed it and could see the patterns. Therefore, he was able to predict the future. And he could tell what would usher in a paradise.

When everyday people, like peasants, or reporters doing reporting instead of going to the Kremlin's fancy parties, presented counter-evidence (in the case of peasants by dropping dead from starvation), the professors shot back. They accused the few reporters jotting down the numbers of beggars and dead bodies (like William Henry Chamberlin and Eugene Lyons) of being reactionaries. They accused the peasants of bringing on their own starvation by not working enthusiastically enough on the collective farms the government had so generously provided them.

Even after Kruschev had denounced Stalin for errors, the professors did not lose faith. They knew socialism could work–if only the "right" people were

The professors in the 1960s kept teaching about the superiority of socialism, hoping as Bill Ayers and company did, that through the reeducation of their charges they would usher in and rule over a socialistic utopia. And even though the Vietnamese fled North Vietnam, the people there really wanted a communist government. These thinkers knew that Ho Chi Minh was more of a democrat than the slave-owning writer of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson.

So, when I recently watched the testimony by the Constitutional scholars Pamela Karlan (Stanford), Noah Feldman (Harvard), and Michael Gerhardt (University of North Carolina), I thought, welcome to

Welcome to my world where someone like Karlan, who at a 2017 conference claimed she had to cross the street from Donald Trump's hotel (the building apparently shoots cootie rays onto the sidewalk) and to know that Trump did not "believe in" democracy, "the rule of law," or a "free press." The legal scholar had denounced "voter suppression" (no, no, not about New Black Panthers outside the Philadel-

phia polling station in 2008; those were civil rights activists) and claimed that Trump's sexual assault record was higher than "99.99% of all of the people who have entered this country illegally." (Let us hope the FBI takes note of this inside information.)

In addition to being an ace legal mind, she was able to go beyond Freud and diagnosed Trump as not being able to tell the difference between truth and falsity. She claimed that he was trying to "destabilize the courts" and predicted that he would blame a Muslim on a future terroristic attack like the one in Oklahoma City

At the hearing, she explained that "one of the most important provisions of our original Constitution is the guarantee of periodic elections for the presidency." Therefore, this president needed to be removed. There are so many reasons—like the president's reference to "Russia, if you're listening," i.e., to get on it about Hillary Clinton's missing emails. All smart people know that this is not a joke, for Republicans are incapable of making jokes.

But those with Ph.D.s learn all the clever inside jokes at conferences. It was too bad that the rubes didn't understand Karlan's witty reference to the president's 13-yearold son. She told Americans that "Trump is not a king" and that he could "name his son Barron" but could not "make him a baron." But they just didn't get it. So she magnanimously gave a "qualified apology," pointing out that Trump had much to apologize for himself-like being born. And like all those feminists attacking phallologocentrism in "Paradise Lost" and "Huckleberry Finn," she was applauded for "schooling" a "Trump crony," Congressman Doug Collins (R-Ga.).

In my world, earnest graduate students presented comparison/contrast papers at conferences knowing, just knowing, that someone would recognize their genius. Noah Feldman may have known that his "insights" had been discussed thousands of times before at such insider events, but for the benefit of the folks he spelled it out, explaining that the "framers provided for the impeachment of the president because they feared the president might abuse his power of his office."

"Let me begin now," he continued, "of why the framers provided for impeachment in the first place. The framers borrowed the concept of impeachment from England, but with one enormous difference. The House of Commons and the House of Lords could use impeachment in order to limit the ministers of the king, but they could not impeach the king. And in that sense, the king was above the law."

He then asked his enthralled audience, I would like you to think now about a specific date in the Constitutional Convention, July 20, 1787. It was the middle of a long hot summer. ..."

Feldman had been cogitating on impeachment for a while. Back in 2017, Feldman and Jacob Weisberg compared and contrasted "the collusion of Donald Trump's presidential campaign and Russia" to Watergate, likening "Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey and warnings to Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller" to "President Nixon's Saturday

Night Massacre." Feldman also contributed to a collection edited by Cass Sunstein, who served in the Obama White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Titled quite originally "Can It Happen Here? Authoritarianism in America," the book delved, naturally, into Trump's authoritarianism.

Impeach

(Sunstein's earlier book, "Nudge," spelled out how the government could "nudge" citizens to do what it knew was good for them.) Sunstein, in his introduction, took some creative Sinclair Lewis-like liberties, presenting a future as Lewis did in his novel, even though it was fiction and did not come true then–even under a president who tried to pack the Supreme Court so he could fully take over the economy and who let in British spies to encourage

Gerhardt (who has evolved on the Constitution since the Obama presidency) also lectured about the difference between the British system under monarchy and "in our constitution" where "no one, not even the president is above the law" and where there is "a separation of powers." He concluded "from the public evidence" that the president had attacked the Constitution's "safeguards against establishing a monarchy in this country."

With all this talk of kings and monarchy I was reminded of the June 18, 2018, issue of Time Magazine, which on the cover presented Trump looking into a mirror and seeing his reflection with a crown and a king's regalia–not that I'm doubting that the three professors came to their opinions after a careful review of the evidence–even over a pre-cooked mail-order turkey on Thanksgiving.

Then there was Jonathan Turley, an independent who has always voted Democrat, but who just didn't get it. He blasphemed in stating that he didn't believe that there was enough credible evidence to impeach and that Democrats were offering "passion" instead of "proof." He dared to write about it, along with describing receiving "threatening messages and demands" that he be "fired from George Washington University"-even before he had finished his testimony. I fear that he may fall victim to the kind of purge to which others have succumbed, like Trotsky, and like the more recent one attempted on feminist professor Laura Kipnis.

Over 500 legal scholars after the testimony affixed their names to an open letter to Congress, stating their agreement with Karlan, Feldman, and Gerhardt. Turley had better see the light–that the king must be impeached—soon!

Whoever let him teach at George Washington Law School anyway?

The American people do not appreciate the wisdom of their betters, but President Bernie Sanders will be sure to remind them of how lucky they are to live in a country where the government provides all the food they need and where all they need do is stand in line for it, and not even worry their little brains about what to eat because the Director of the Department of Nutritional Guidance, Provision, and Distribution, Michelle Obama, will see to it that every American gets as much as he, she, they, or it truly needs. Now let's move! Hop on that tractor! You have a quota to fill.

Mary Grabar holds a doctorate in English from the University of Georgia and is a resident fellow at the Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization. Grabar is the author of "Debunking Howard Zinn: Exposing the Fake History that Turned a Generation against America," recently published by Regnery

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch

ALEX EDELMAN/GETTY IMAGES



heir Only Opti

A committee staff member changes the sign behind the Republican side of the dais during a House Judiciary Committee hearing in Washington on Dec. 12, 2019.

TREVOR LOUDON



In September, the United States' largest Marxist organization, the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), posted a list of "pro-

gressives" running for the House of Representatives in 2020. The list, posted on a DSA Reddit page, names more than 100 candidates in over 30 states, from Alaska to Florida, California to Maine. The list includes many hopeless candidates, but also includes several who

least running their primary or general election opponents close. In 2018, the DSA elected two members to congress-Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.)–plus two sympathizers, Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) and Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.)-collectively

known as "The Squad." With an increased membership (now around 55,000) and considerably more electoral experience, the DSA could elect more members and several more support-

Some of the candidates are also closely aligned with two pro-China DSA allies, Liberation Road and the Communist Party USA.

Several on the list ran as first-timers in 2018 against well-established incumbents and lost in many cases by under 10 points. With "on the ground" and financial support from the DSA, Liberation Road, Communist Party USA, Working Families Party, Progressive Democrats of America, Our Revolution, and left-controlled unions such as the SEIU and National Nurses United, many of them will be competitive against Democratic and Republican opponents.

Comrade Candidates

In Arizona's 1st Congressional District, farleft DSA-friendly Eva Putzova is mounting a serious primary challenge against incumbent moderate Democrat Tom O'Halleran.

In California's 29th District, DSA comrade Angelica Duenas is aiming to replace incumbent Democrat Tony Cardenas, while DSA comrade Shahid Buttar is going up against Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in California's 12th District. Strangely, another DSA member and former Massachusetts state legislator, Tom Gallagher, is contesting the

In California's 50th District, the DSAfriendly grandson of a Palestinian terrorist, Ammar Campa-Najjar lost narrowly to a scandal-plagued Republican incumbent Duncan Hunter in 2018. Campa-Najjar is back for a second shot, but his Republican opponent may be different this time.

challenging incumbent Democrat Susan Davis with both DSA and Liberation Road support. Florida's 27th District likely won't change much this cycle as low-polling DSA-friendly Michael Hepburn runs again against Demo-

In California's 53rd District, Jose Cabellero is



Ammar Campa-Najjar (D-Calif.) speaks to reporters outside the Federal Courthouse in San Diego, Calif., on Dec.



Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) questions U.S. Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin as he testifies during a House Committee on Financial Services hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on May 22, 2019.



Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) endorses Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) at a campaign rally in Queensbridge Park in the Queens borough of New York City on Oct. 19, 2019.

Democratic Socialists of America holds a rally in New York on Oct. 30, 2017.

crat incumbent Donna Shalala.

In Georgia's 1st District, DSA-friendly Lisa Ring is making a second attempt at sending Republican incumbent Buddy Carter to an early retirement. In Georgia's 7th District, Nabilah Islam is running for the open seat, while Michael Owens is contesting Georgia's 13th District against moderate Democrat David Scott. Both Islam and Owen have requested the endorsement of Metro Atlanta DSA.

In Illinois's 3rd District, DSA congressmember Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and DSA Chicago Alderman Carlos Rosa have endorsed Marie Newman, who came within a whisker of defeating moderate Democrat Dan Lipinski in 2018. Overly optimistic DSA member Anthony Clark is running for the second time against far-left Danny Davis (himself a former DSA member) in Illinois's 7th District. In Illinois's 10th District, another DSA comrade, Adam Broad, is running hard against moderate Democrat incumbent Brad Schneider.

In Iowa's 4th District, JD Scholten ran embattled incumbent Republican Steve King close–with DSA support. He'll be lucky to come within 15 points this time around.

Top-ranking Democrat Steny Hoyer is probably not too concerned about losing in Party USA branch will likely help out. than 2,000-strong Metro DC DSA.

In Massachusetts's 4th District, DSAbacked "democratic socialist" Ihssane Leckey has a narrow opening as her Democratic incumbent opponent Joe Kennedy III has decided to run for U.S. Senate. In Massachusetts's 6th District, DSA-friendly Nathaniel Mulcahy has even less chance against Democratic incumbent Seth Moulton.

In Minnesota's 2nd District, DSA supporter Johnny Akzam is making his second run for the Democrat held seat.

In Missouri's 1st District, Pastor Cori Bush ran about 10 points behind leftist Democrat incumbent Lacy Clay in 2018. With probable DSA, Communist Party USA, and Liberation

Road support, Bush could well pull off an upset in this district. Nebraska's 2nd District could possibly go

left with Kara Eastman's second run for the seat. In 2018 she won the Democratic primary with DSA help, then lost the general to a Republican. Moderate Democrats will fight her hard in the primary.

In New York's 12th District, DSA member Lauren Ashcraft is fighting a longshot battle against incumbent Democrat Carolyn Maloney. New York's 24th District is a bit more hopeful for the far left. DSA-supported Dana Balter came within 5 points of Republican John Katko in 2018. If Balter can get through the Democratic primary, she may have a shot.

North Carolina's 1st District sees DSA member DeAndre Carter go up against farleft incumbent Democrat GK Butterfield. In North Carolina's 4th District, Boy Scout and DSA comrade Daniel Ulysses Lockwood has even less chance against incumbent leftist Democrat David Price.

Ohio's 3rd District could possibly see a shock result as DSA, and possibly Liberation Road-backed, Morgan Harper goes up against incumbent Democrat Joyce Beatty.

In Oregon's 3rd District, DSA member Albert Lee has a good shot against incumbent far-left Democrat Earl Blumenauer. DSA-supported Mark Gamba has less chance against moderate Democrat Kurt Schrader in Oregon's 5th District. Long-time Liberation Road affiliate Doyle Canning is even braver to take on far-left incumbent Democrat Pete DeFazio in Oregon's 4th District.

In South Carolina's 2nd District, DSA member Lawrence Nathaniel is valiantly challenging incumbent Republican Joe Wilson in one of the most heavily Republican districts in the country.

Texas's 25th District sees DSA member Heidi Sloan competing against one other leftist Democrat in the primary for an open Republican seat. Support from around 1,000 Austin DSA comrades may well see Sloan through at least the primary.

DSA endorsee Stevens Orozco is standing in Texas's 18th District to unseat the deeply entrenched Sheila Jackson-Lee, Houston DSA and probably the powerful local Communist

"democratic socialist" opponent Mckayla in Texas's 28th District against moderate Democrat Henry Cuellar. Cisneros's campaign has borrowed DSA congressmember Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's DSA-friendly adviser Andres Bernal to help out.

> Texas's 10th District could see a possible far-left victory. Democratic candidate Mike Siegel, son of former Communist Workers Party leader Dan Siegel, came within 5 points of beating Republican Mike McCaul in 2018. With Siegel's strong DSA and union backing, the Republican Party needs to take Mike Siegel very seriously indeed.

> Over in Washington's 10th District, DSA member Joshua Collins is challenging moderate Democrat Denny Heck. In nearby Washington's 6th District, another DSA comrade, Rebecca Parson, is taking on the left to moderate Democrat Derek Kilmer. The strong DSA and small Communist Party USA presence in these districts might help Collins and Parson a little.

Should We Worry?

While only a handful (if any) of the candidates on DSA's list will get elected, their mere presence on the ballot will damage this country in several ways.

Firstly, they will serve to further legitimize socialism–something that should rank very near the top of the Evil Graph.

Secondly, election campaigns to communists are more about recruitment than winning elections. The DSA and its allies will win very few of the seats they contest, but they may end up seducing several thousand new souls to socialism. That will impact us

Thirdly, these candidates will serve to drive the Democratic Party even further to the left. That will benefit the Republicans in the short-term, but in the long-term it makes the whole nation morally and politically poorer.

Trevor Loudon is an author, filmmaker, and public speaker from New Zealand. For more than 30 years, he has researched radical left, Marxist, and terrorist movements and their covert influence on main-

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.



Students exit Massey Hill Classical High School in Fayetteville, N.C., on Sept. 13, 2000. The school, while fully part of the public school system, has a "classical" curriculum based on fundamental arts and sciences, and Students are required to wear uniforms. The three-year-old school is nart of an educational experiment in North Carolina-using some of the features of private schools in the public

A 90 Percent Graduation Rate, but at What Cost?

As graduation

rates continue

school students'

proficiency levels

in various subjects

continue to dip.

to rise, high

DUSTIN BASS



It appears that the lofty goal of reaching a 90 percent high school graduation rate by 2020 is going to fall short.

When GradNation was formulated in 2010 through the network of Alliance for Excellent Education, America's Promise Alliance, AT&T, Pure Edge, and Raikes Foundation, the national graduation rate was at 79 percent (2011).

At the end of 2017, the percentage had risen to 84.6 percent. Oddly enough, the rate was 71 percent in 2001, which may lead one to argue that the increase between 2011 and now has nothing to do with the efforts of GradNation.

More students graduating is a good how many diplomas are being handed out and more at what all is going into those diplomas. Why? Because as graduation rates continue to rise, high school students' proficiency levels in various subjects continue to dip.

The National Association of Educational Progress (NAEP) points out every year in its Nation's Report Card that our students are not doing very well. If you're wondering where the NAEP came from, this excerpt from its website should answer that question in very bureaucratic terms:

"NAEP is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES)."

The Nation's Report Card

The annual Report Card shows the proficient levels (as well as basic and advanced levels) of students in the 4th, 8th, and 12th grades, covering numerous subjects, such as science, math, reading, writing, and U.S. history. In the latest Report Card, all subjects have declining scores from 4th grade to 12th, with only one subject, reading, showing a minimal uptick from

Even the history of our SAT scores shows the annual decline in math, reading, and writing, no matter how the scoring is manipulated.

The NAEP has been tracking student achievement since 1971. Over the 1980s and 1990s, there were improvements in math and reading scores, especially between 1982 and 1992. Since then, those numbers have stagnated or dropped.

In 2012, the association published a 60-page report showing the progress • Private schools perform better, or or lack thereof in reading and math from 1971 to 2012. The report is a rather sobering one, showing that despite the incredible mass of information readily at our fingertips today, our graduating seniors aren't any better off educationally than they were in 1971.

Oddly enough, the report does make

the claim that "9- and 13-year-olds make long-term gains." The last time I checked, however, 9- and 13-year-old children aren't entering university. Nor are they entering the workforce, at least they haven't been since 1938.

What Isn't Helping the Problem

I think there are several solutions to the problem. But before I bring those ideas forward, here are a few items that are not helping

Federal policies such as No Child Left Behind or the Every Student Succeeds Act have proven to not get it done. They have proven, however, to provide more administrative jobs in the education system. That equates to more career opportunities for those looking to tell teachers how to do a better job while at the same time exasperating the problem.

America's Promise Alliance (aka GradNation) is the height of grandstanding in the education field by giving the appearance that they are helping improve the graduation rate. Their reports are merely regurgitations of NCES numbers, except with quotes from those associated with America's Promise Alliance. In its most recent report, it notes that education is a state and local issue, but stresses more federal oversight. They also request stronger "accountability for non-traditional high schools" (I'll address that in the solutions section).

An increase in education technology isn't setting the school houses on proverbial fire like many, including myself, were hoping. While technology has its place in school, it cannot replace the teacher. The Wall Street Journal reported on this issue and pointed out that all the tech "disruption" may simply be just that—a disruption. A decrease, or at least a slowdown in edtech implementation means local, state, and federal governments can pull back financially, or perhaps put that money where it needs to go: toward the teachers (not the administrators) and their classroom needs.

Speaking of money, we spend more money per student than any other country in the world, save Luxembourg, which has a population of 600,000. Spending money isn't the issue, and extravagant spending has proven not to be the solution.

Solutions to the Problem

I saved this section for last because hard truths are best saved for the end of a conversation. The statistics pinpoint obvious items you probably could accurately assume.

America needs to at least their students score higher. look less at how Private schools are known for higher many diplomas are standards in their curriculum and being handed out for more rigid guidelines concerning student behavior. There may just and more at what be a correlation. There's also much all is going into less bureaucracy. The bureaucracy those diplomas. is typically in the administrative of-

fice or it belongs to the parents and donors. It's not that there isn't any red tape, just less.

Sometimes it's best to push the statistics aside and simply understand where students are coming from. English Language Learners (ELL), as they are identified in the annual Report Card, have scores much lower than non-ELL students. Students eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) also greatly underperform compared to non-NSLP students. One last item that directly reflects homelife is parents' education attainment. The higher the parents' education level, the higher the student's score (statistically speaking).

There's score fluctuation regarding school location. Suburb schools perform better than urban. Rural schools perform better than those in town. This indicates that the teacher-tostudent ratio is important, as well as the learning environment inside and outside of class.

The solution to the problem is less federal involvement. There's enough bureaucracy at the state and local level. The solution is to let teachers teach the kids and not try to rely on new edtech that students and teachers have

to learn simultaneously. The solution is to not rely on more money from on high, but to rely on the teachers to do their job well. And if they are a poor-performing educator (and this should be confirmed by fellow-teachers, not simply by the stats), then it shouldn't take an act of Congress to terminate their contract.

The solution is to give parents a choice of where to send their kids. Don't force parents to send their kid to a school where the chances of a good education are nil. Urban to suburban. Town to rural.

The solution is to allow teachers and administrators to discipline students when they get out of line. School officials shouldn't be in fear of a lawsuit every time they threaten a student

with sentences. And if a 90 percent graduation rate is really what GradNation wants, then this solution would really create an uptick in the rate: Don't make going to school a federal law. Let the parents decide if their child goes to school or not. The ones that want to learn will be there and those that don't will be

somewhere else. The education system is about educating students, not graduating them at any cost.

Dustin Bass is the co-founder of The Sons of History, a YouTube series and weekly podcast about all things history. He is a former journalist turned entrepreneur. He is also an author.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.



