

REIGN of ERROR: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools by Diane Ravitch, 2013.

(33 Chapters, with 15 addressing Claims & Reality, and 11 addressing Solutions.)

SESSION 1: Chapter 33, 1-14

33.Conclusion: The Pattern on the Rug

1.Our Schools are at Risk

2.The Context for Corporate Reform

3.Who are the Corporate Reformers?

4.The Language of Corporate Reform

5.The Facts About Test Scores

CLAIM: *Test scores are falling, and the educational system is broken and obsolete.*

REALITY: *Test scores are at their highest point ever recorded.*

6.The Facts About the Achievement Gap

CLAIM: *The achievement gaps are large and getting worse.*

REALITY: *We have made genuine progress in narrowing the achievement gaps, but they will remain large if we do nothing about the causes of the gaps.*

7.The Facts About the International Test Scores

CLAIM: *We are falling behind other nations, putting our economy and our national security at risk.*

REALITY: *An old lament, not true then, not true now.*

8.The Facts About High School Graduation Rates

CLAIM: *The nation has a dropout crisis, and high school graduation rates are falling.*

REALITY: *High school dropouts are at an all-time low, and high school graduation rates are at an all-time high.*

9.The Facts About College Graduation Rates

CLAIM: *Our economy will suffer unless we have the highest college graduation rate in the world.*

REALITY: *There is no evidence for this claim.*

10.How Poverty Affects Academic Achievement

CLAIM: *Poverty is an excuse for ineffective teaching and failing schools.*

REALITY: *Poverty is highly correlated with low academic achievement.*

11.The Facts About Teachers and Test Scores

CLAIM: *Teachers determine student test scores, and test scores may be used to identify and reward effective teachers and to fire those who are not effective.*

REALITY: *Tests' scores are not the best way to identify the best teachers.*

12. Why Merit Pay Fails

CLAIM: *Merit pay will improve achievement.*

REALITY: *Merit pay has never improved achievement*

13. Do Teachers Need Tenure and Seniority?

CLAIM: *Schools will improve if tenure and seniority are abolished*

REALITY: *There is no evidence for this claim.*

14. The Problem with Teach for America

CLAIM: *Teach for America recruits teachers and leaders whose high expectations will one day ensure that every child has an excellent education.*

REALITY: *Teach for America sends bright young people into tough classrooms where they get about the same results as other bright young people in similar classrooms but leave the profession sooner.*

REIGN of ERROR: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools by Diane Ravitch, 2013.

(33 Chapters, with 15 addressing Claims & Reality, and 11 addressing Solutions.)

SESSION 2: Chapter 30,32, 15-20

30. Protect Democratic Control of Public Education

Solution #9: *Public schools should be controlled by elected school boards or by boards in large cities appointed for a set term by more than one elected official.*

32. Privatization of Public Education is Wrong

Solution #11: *Recognize that public education is a public responsibility, not a consumer good.*

15. The Mystery of Michelle Rhee

16. The Contradictions of Charters

CLAIM: *Charter schools will revolutionize American education by their freedom to innovate and produce dramatically better results.*

REALITY: *Charter schools run the gamut from excellent to awful and are, on average, no more innovative or successful than public schools.*

17. Trouble in E-Land

CLAIM: *Virtual schools will bring the promise of personalized, customized learning to every student and usher in an age of educational excellence for all.*

REALITY: *Virtual schools are cash cows for their owners but poor substitutes for real teachers and real schools.*

18. Parent Trigger, Parent Tricker

CLAIM: *If parents seize control of their school, they can make it better.*

REALITY: *There is no evidence for this claim.*

19. The Failure of Vouchers

CLAIM: *Students who receive vouchers for private and religious schools will experience dramatic success.*

REALITY: *There is no evidence for this claim.*

20. Schools Don't Improve if They Are Closed

CLAIM: *Schools can be dramatically improved by firing the principal, firing half or all of the teachers, or closing the school and starting fresh.*

REALITY: *There is no evidence for this claim.*

REIGN of ERROR: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools by Diane Ravitch, 2013.

(33 Chapters, with 15 addressing Claims & Reality, and 11 addressing Solutions.)

SESSION 3: Chapter 31, 21-30

31.The Toxic Mix

Solution #10: *Devise actionable strategies and specific goals to reduce racial segregation and poverty.*

21.Solutions: Start here

22.Begin at the Beginning

Solution #1: *Provide good prenatal care for every pregnant woman.*

23.The Early Years Count

Solution #2: *Make high-quality early childhood education available to all children.*

24.The Essentials of a Good Education

Solution #3: *Every school should have a full, balanced, and rich curriculum, including the arts, science, history, literature, civics, geography, foreign language, mathematics, and physical education.*

25.Class Size Matters for Teaching and Learning

Solution #4: *Reduce class sizes to improve student achievement and behavior.*

26.Make Charters Work for All

Solution #5: *Ban for-profit charters and charter chains and ensure that charter schools collaborate with public schools to support better education for all children.*

27.Wraparound Services Make a Difference

Solution #6: *Provide the medical and social services that poor children need to keep up with their advantaged peers.*

28.Measure Knowledge and Skills with Care

Solution #7: *Eliminate high-stakes standardized testing and rely instead on assessments that allow students to demonstrate what they know and can do.*

29.Strengthen the Profession

Solution #8: *Insist that teachers, principals, and superintendents be professional educators.*

30.Protect Democratic Control of Public Education

Solution #9: *Public schools should be controlled by elected school boards or by boards in large cities appointed for a set term by more than one elected official.*