

There *is* hope for education in America today:  
it is the insistence on a true education. It begins with you.



## Is There Hope for Education in America?

By Carlynn McCormick

**You already know the problems.**

**Who hasn't heard of gang violence, drugs and suicide meshed  
with a slew of learning disorders?**

**And while it is convenient for authorities to categorize  
problems and label disorders, it brings no solution to the table.**

Rather, we are faced with something of a paradox: students are supposed to go to school to learn to solve problems but going to school can cause more problems than it solves. What do students do when useful learning doesn't happen?

Drop out in droves. *Cities in Crisis*, an April 2008 report released by *America's Promise Alliance* gave the alarming figures: almost 50% of the high school students in America's largest cities dropped out. But in Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit and Indianapolis, figures were more dismal: only 35% of the students received a high school diploma.

Historically, high school graduation was a major step in preparing one for success in life. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell, founding chair of the alliance said, *“When more than one million students a year drop out of high school, it’s more than a problem, it’s a catastrophe.”*

In most schools, what is passed off as education doesn’t work. Methods from “one shoe fits all” to “parroting answers back on test paper” are ineffective. What is the outcome when young children are required to sit for hours without squirming or wiggling? It has brought nonsensical notions such as millions of children *must* be medicated (made to ingest toxic substances) in order for them to learn. Such methods and notions have little to do with true education.

True education is valuable. It takes the individuality of the student into account and aligns it to that student’s goals and purposes. It fosters a love of learning. It invites students to look at things for themselves and see how they compare to what is already known. It teaches students how to research, evaluate and apply data to the real world. It prepares students to succeed in our rapidly changing era of technology. True education is respected and sought after by students and their parents.

It is the only kind of education you or anyone else should settle for. It produces competence and confidence; it makes learning a life long pursuit.

To achieve such results for your child it may be necessary to take his or her education into your own hands.

There *is* hope for education in America today: it is the insistence on a true education. It begins with you.

*Carlynn McCormick is a textbook author and the executive director of Applied Scholastics Online Academy. Comments to author will be answered by [Carlynn@AppliedScholasticsOnline.com](mailto:Carlynn@AppliedScholasticsOnline.com)*



©2008 Applied Scholastics *Online* Academy™. All Rights Reserved. Applied Scholastics *Online* Academy admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin. Applied Scholastics *Online* Academy is licensed to use Applied Scholastics™ educational services. Applied Scholastics and the Applied Scholastics open book design are trademarks and service marks owned by Association for Better Living and Education International and are used with its permission.

Applied Scholastics *Online* Academy is located at 15020 Burwood Drive, Lake Mathews, CA 92570. Telephone (951) 789-0224

If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter please reply and type “unsubscribe” in the subject box or let us know by reply.