

EDUCATION¹

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The *Education of Our Children* is our first priority *as a People*.

The *Education of our Adults* is a very close second.

The role of government in education, whether it be at the county, state, or federal level, is not as easily stated.

I know that the system we have is flawed.

I know this because we *Fail to Educate* 1 out of 4 students (Florida: based on graduation rates).

We *Fail to Educate* 6 out of 10 black students.

We *Fail to Educate* 5 out of 10 Hispanic students.

By stating that *Education* is a priority as a people, we can start anew and intelligently assign responsibility to our government. I know this can be achieved because the *Role of Government* (addressed elsewhere) is what we, the patriots, say it is.

I believe that the responsibility to educate must be acted upon at the most local of all levels of government. I also believe that the success of education is a *National Priority* on a par with *Freedom* and *National Defense*. For how can we defend ourselves if our people have not been trained to think?

These two beliefs about these two levels of responsibility must be reconciled before we can create an effective educational system. As explained (elsewhere) the relationship between the federal government and the local government is this: The federal government is to provide a safe society and social atmosphere of opportunity and encouragement within which local government can act upon its responsibility to achieve local goals. In other words, the federal government should set national education goals and the local governments should seek to achieve them.

The existing structure of our education system is a tangled mess of federal requirements, local taxation, special interests, social inadequacy, false standards, and mismanagement. It is important to note that none of these conditions can be blamed on any single party, entity, situation, or person. The structure is an accident of an unguided evolution of policy and law, reacting to situations one at a time with little or no consideration for integration and focus on the goal of an educated society. What is needed is a full dismantling, retooling, and reconstruction of the system with the goal of

¹ A plank in my campaign for the Florida House of Representatives.

creating a system capable of responding to changing conditions without eroding the foundation.

Please note: In this essay I refer to the *system* not individuals or groups of individuals.