

# EDUCATE US!

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# 1

## *History*

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If you ask any child younger than 9 what they think about school, they will almost all tell you they like it. They are excited to get dressed in the morning and go see their friends. They're learning all sorts of cool things and the experience is almost always fun for them. At this age, it doesn't much matter where they go to school either, they all enjoy it.

So what happens when they start moving up in grades? Why do kids not enjoy the experience and specifically, why, by the time they get to the 5th grade, do they truly hate it? We should all be able to answer these simple questions but for some reason we give into the idea that the government experts know best and we must perform at their standards.

I am more than certain that most people reading this book will be shocked to learn that a professor way back in 1964 named John Holt rebelled against the education system and actually argued that "the school system negatively affects intelligence, and makes children lose the love of

learning" in his book "How Children Fail". But until researching material for this book I had never heard of the guy. Throughout my years on earth I've heard people over and over talking about revising the school systems but they never do. They just give lip service to the idea and never make changes.

So who exactly are these "experts", and are they really educating our children?" After all, we're all products of the same system that we're sending our kids. We all went through the same feelings and experiences, although I'd argue today is even worse. So let's all sit down and think back to those early days of actually going to school. Not the feelings you have today after all the long work hours and stress in an adults life, but actually when we were young. What exactly happened to us that we ended up hating something that was so fun in the beginning?

When we were really young, the teachers were all much nicer. They complemented us when we did things right and they helped us when we were confused. There were no tests, not real structure, we had the same teacher all day long and we played games and did fun stuff.

Now fast forward to the 4th grade. This is when things start getting more structured and strict. This is where most fun things are removed from the class room and we start learning things like multiplication tables, more complex math, English, Literature, History, Science and more. But why?

No one really tells you why you're learning these things because most teachers have never actually had a job other than teaching. They learned their skills from other teachers that also have generally never had any other experience. This process is even more insidious when you consider what these teachers are forced to do all day. Stand in the same place, in the same room, talking about the same material, over and over again for most of their lives. This is why most older teachers become numb to the kids and just want to get through the day.

So we take kids that were having fun in the 3rd grade with their one teacher and now, almost without warning, throw them into multiple rooms with multiple teachers that are all attempting to teach a subject that they themselves were taught to perform a few years earlier. But the "Experts" were not done there.

In addition to breaking up the material, teachers and classrooms, the kids are also thrown into different groups of kids throughout the day. They are uncomfortable and have to learn to make friends over and over again because of the fast pace of, well, everything.

Oh but wait, the "Experts" are still not done. In addition to everything else, the "Experts" decided that we had to give constant tests, provide huge books that needed to be covered in full before the end of each semester, and then

measure each kid against a national database of testing to see how they all stack up.

And you think these “Experts” are done? Heck no, they are just getting started. In addition to all of these insane requirements they also choose which subjects the kids should learn, how much they should be tested, what grades are acceptable and how everyone stacks up against everyone else. They require books that are extremely expensive, chocked full of errors and at their choosing rewrite history the way they think it should be.

Before we continue, I want you to consider for a moment, that you go to work each day and this type of process is followed. Instead of working with the same people and performing tasks you learn and become efficient at, you’re instead constantly moved around, forced to work with different people with ever changing requirements and skills and never being allowed to find your footing. Would you continue to work there or would you seek something else?

Could there be a better way? Is it possible to learn to read and write without being forced to take more and more advanced English classes every single year of your education? Could you learn history without being forced to study every single element of an event?

There are people that really like history. The reality of it is that most older people tend to get more interested in

history the older they get. I would be one of those people, yet I absolutely hated going to school and being forced to learn a bunch of stuff, that in my head, and in reality, I would never use.

I will never forget my Algebra teacher in junior high school, when asked why I was being forced to learn such a crazy thing, could not answer the question. The sad part is that I've used algebra most of my adult life, or forms of it, when programming computers. But like everything else in my life, I had to teach myself how to do things because the teachers tasked with the job had never actually used what they taught and couldn't explain the "Why".

The first notion we need to remove from our heads is that there are any "Experts" out there. If there is one thing I've learned in all my years, is that most people claiming the title of "Expert" generally are far from it. So let's go on a journey imagining a different way. Let's let our imaginations roam free and put ourselves back into those younger years. We now have careers and experiences that allow us a better understanding of what things we used that were learned in school and what things were quite possibly a total waste of time.

Before we get started on this journey though we need to consider a few rules:

- 1) We can not ONLY view ideas from a single perspective.  
There are many different careers that can be chosen

and each may have aspects to it that would benefit from certain material where others may consider it a waste.

- 2) We need to provide a reason to learn certain material before we begin teaching it. Jumping into a subject with no clear objective being defined only serves to frustrate most people. Kids are no different and in most cases will be even more frustrated.
- 3) There are certain aspects to learning that should be stressed and taught throughout the entire education process. These include but are not limited to: Logical Thinking, How to make an argument, Considering Alternatives, How to Listen, Being Respectful, Never becoming attached to any ideas and always considering you might be wrong, and most importantly, that everything you read on the Internet is MOSTLY wrong and should always be researched completely.
- 4) An attempt to provide solid factual materials when studying a subject should always be considered. This may require purchasing books and materials on certain subjects like History, Literature and others.
- 5) That our current system for educating young kids in the basics of reading, writing, math and science do work and shouldn't be replaced.

DISCLAIMER: Before we get started on this imaginary journey into a new educational system, I want to state clearly that I are not attempting to lay out every single aspect of the process. I leave plenty of room open throughout this book to add additional courses and concepts and am only wanting to get people thinking of

alternate ways that we can educate kids. In my eyes this is all common sense and hopefully by the time we're done you'll join me in making our kids better prepared for their futures.



# 2

## *Why It Doesn't Work*

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Throughout this book we're going to be getting into details of an actual mini-school and how it would operate on a day to day basis. We're going to be getting into super detailed classes, required materials, lesson plans and ideas on how to present the material. But for this chapter, we're going to talk about our current system and why it fails so badly.

First off, what are a few of the major problems with our current education system not mentioned in chapter 1? How about the fact that every single person in this country that owns property pays a considerable tax that goes to the state and local government to help finance our schools. Another 8-10% is sent from taxes taken by the Federal Government to help states provide this service and still more is used by some states from other taxes they take from everyone.

The amount of money we're talking about here is too much for any of us to really relate to, so we'll skip over that part of the conversation since it is not important. The fact is, it is a huge number. On average, it requires about 30% of the budget paid out by most states. The reason this is important is because states adding more free programs to their budget end up taking away from money spent on

education. The entire process gets entangled with all of the other out of control spending our government officials enjoy. The problem though, is that our kids are the ones that end up paying for all the unrelated mess public officials throw in each and every year by not being educated.

In addition to our tax money going to K-12 schools, another 15-20% is given away to colleges. The percentage here isn't really important, the important point is to understand that a massive amount of a states budget goes towards education as a whole.

Before we continue though I'm sure you've all heard the old saying "It's All About The Money". Throw in The Teachers Union to control all of this money and the system as a whole becomes nothing short of a cess pool of corruption and the fact that they are supposed to be educating our kids is relegated to a back burner event.

So if so much money is being taken from hard working Americans and thrown at the problem, why do our kids graduate from high school each year and are only qualified to work at Walmart? Why are they told that the only way to get a real job is to go to college? To be blunt, it is all about the money. Have you ever wondered why an attorney takes so long to do something that should be relatively quick? They make more money the longer they can drag something out and there is zero reason for them to be quick. College is nothing more than this tactic and it no

more prepares most people for their life occupation than high school did. But when a lot of companies require this piece of paper they are stuck trying to get it. The fact is though, that most jobs people get are NOT in the study they had in college.

In today's economy, a high school educated young person has very little chance of landing a good job. They have zero experience in anything useful that a company needs and as a result the companies have to take on the task of training and educating them before they become useful. By the way, the same companies that have already paid a huge portion of their taxes for educating the very kid they now have to spend money and time on to train.

So, off to college they go. This time we're hoping they have a better chance to land that job. Except...

Most colleges are not interested in training the kids to do anything useful either. They receive huge amounts of money from donors, the government, and parents that are paying large sums of their hard earned money in the hope their kids will be able to live a good life when they are done.

The problem though is that the kids get out of college and have more than just a little problem. Now they are broke, have been educated in the same worthless dribble that the K-12 schools were teaching, have a huge debt that must be paid back no matter what, and in the worst of cases have

been brain washed by the Liberal school teachers into believing up is down and down is up. All you have to do is look on the streets in 2020 and you'll see the product of most colleges and the education system as a whole.

They were not even taught to reason out problems or to consider they might be wrong, or worse, that their teachers WERE wrong. Instead they were taught that their thoughts were important even if they are stupid, their feelings matter in all cases and they deserve what they have not worked for. Per John Holt: "children become unintelligent because they are accustomed by teachers and schools to strive only for teacher approval and the "right" answers and consequently forget everything else."

I own a software company and the worst employees I've hired, bar only a few, have been college educated kids. They show up to work wanting to know when they will be getting a raise before they even learn to do a job. Faced with any stress or deadlines they almost all quit. I know there are always exceptions but you'd be hard pressed to find an honest business owner that would say much different in 2020.

Businesses and people that are already being taxed to take care of education have no interest in giving more money to try to fix anything. Everyone in this country sees education as an impossible task that no one will ever fix. So why try?

Things get even worse when we move into the impoverished parts of the country. These counties and cities have very few businesses to take money from and the people living in the areas either don't work or don't make enough to help out. This leaves the children in these areas ignored and forgotten. To make matters worse, teachers unions and school boards make it almost impossible for anyone to step up and solve any problems. At the end of the day it should be ALL ABOUT THE KIDS, but it isn't. Instead, the Teacher Unions, Boards, and Government Officials only care about all that money coming in that they've fleeced from us.

So the problem isn't just that education always has and continues to be all but useless, it is that kids don't even want to participate in what is there. The politicians want to keep it this way because it keeps them in power. The dumber the public the more they can control us all and they take full advantage of this. Have you ever wondered why any conversation with a Democrat that makes them uncomfortable has them calling you a racist? Dumb people fall for these types of antics and as a result they have no reason to fix anything. Everything is perfect in their eyes.

I'm going to try to keep us out of politics going forward as the main focus of this book is to help the kids and to give them something non of us ever had. But to give us a good grounding moving forward I felt it needed to be mentioned.

So let's get started.

# 3

## *Imagine That*

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So my plan for this book is to not only lay out ideas but to provide concrete fully detailed examples of how a mini school would function. Before we get started though we're going to go through a high level overview of the concept of an EU (Educate Us) classroom setting.

As mentioned earlier, we need to continue the education of the younger kids using our current system to at least the 3rd grade. The reason for this is simple, in order for the kids to participate in lessons in our new imaginary school, they need to know how to read and write and do basic math. Our new school is going to be operating in a completely different capacity than our current schools do, so we're going to have to reimagine everything.

Keep in mind though, that there is nothing stopping our new school from having younger kids learning these skills in a different part of the school.

When Jacob shows up to school he enters a wide open warehouse. Along the back wall are shelves of materials from electrical components, plumbing, wood working and more. These materials are kept inside a huge cage and are purchased by each child using credits that they've

obtained by completing projects, helping others, working in the school and more. The kids will manage this cage along with an adult to insure proper inventory is kept and that new materials are purchased when they become low. Jacob's team worked the cage last week and this week they plan on starting a new project.

Part of the teams participation in the cage is to conduct daily meetings to discuss processes used in managing and tracking materials to see if they can come up with better ways of doing the job. An adult will supervise these meetings and help guide them, but the kids are encouraged to think things out on their own.

Jacob's team consists of his best friend Trever, Cindy and Ben. They were teamed up early on and all participate in the different projects they are assigned or pick. Each team is assigned a single project and a free project that they get to choose. The assigned project must be worked on each day and time is set aside for them to work on their free project as well.

Each semester kids are moved between teams in order to allow them to work with other students. The projects they choose from are age based and the materials and tools used for each fit their skill level.

Jacob and his friends love coming to the school because they are always working on cool projects and are free to work as fast or slow as they want. There are no real tests or



homework but each kid takes things home so they can finish faster. The projects aren't boring work but things they get to show off. That is the best part of school for most of them. The more projects they complete the higher the reward on their payment cards, although there is a minimal requirement on each project that must be met to be deemed complete. This keeps the kids from rushing through and doing bad jobs on the projects.

Jacobs team today has the task of researching a local statue that stands in the square of their small town. The paper describing the project says they should discover who carved it, where it came from, a little history of the artist, who paid for it and how long it has been there. Other things include the current owner and what it represents.

Normally this might seem a boring project, but the goal of this project is not a hand written report. Sure they'll need to write things out and practice their art of communication, but the real prize is in how they deliver the goods.

When Jacob and his team started coming to this school they were each given the materials to build their very own computers. This required that they read through instructions, pictures and a few videos to show what they were supposed to do. It took them a week to figure everything out and get their computers working but wow, how cool is it that a 9 year old kid built his/her very own computer system.

At first they had to leave their computers at the school because they had no way to protect the components. But the second week of school they got projects to build their very own computer cases. When they started school they were each given a card that contained a balance of EU (Educate Us) credits. There were enough credits there to get each kid started building their computers and getting the materials to build their boxes. That was a very cool week as well because some of the older kids helped the younger kids make their boxes and they received credits for the help. Jacob and his new team also received credits once they completed each task.

So here is where things started to get even cooler. At first Jacob was told he had to complete these first few projects and was instructed on how to install some basic tools he would need to move on with his learning. He has to manage his credits carefully but he's learning to plan things out so he can get what he needs.

Part of each project is treated as a documentary that is video'd and uploaded to the schools website for the parents and family to see. So every project includes the kids learning to video, to process the videos, to do graphics, sound recording and uploading. Each month the best videos are chosen to upload to the schools Youtube channel for the WORLD to see.

Each video requires a different team member and sometimes multiple team members to be the star. Jacob really likes doing the video processing and recording and his friend Trevor loves to do graphics in the free graphics program he has downloaded to his very own computer. Cindy and Ben really like Skitting out the presentation and they all help out in the research.

There are many quiet areas in the warehouse where the teams can discuss their projects and work through things. There is a room dedicated to wood working, a metal shop, and an electrical shop. In order to use these shops each team has to schedule a time slot and plan out what they are going to be doing. They are limited to how much time they can tie up machines, and as a result, planing out their work is a very important step.

Each project that they've done has been fun and their parents have loved what the kids are learning to do. They've also enjoyed the documentaries they're putting together and the fact that they are managing their money and learning to set goals and schedule out tasks.

Jacob really likes the teachers in the facility. To call them teachers is not exactly correct though. They are all very nice and are there to help the kids figure things out. They don't know everything though and some are parents of other kids. They are there to help with projects and to help figure out problems. Sometimes Ms Lucy has to dig into a project with them to figure out how to do it. One time she

even had to get Mr Michaels involved because she just couldn't do it.

The cool thing about the whole process though is Jacob and his team feel like they are actually accomplishing something each day when go home. In fact, he doesn't really want to go home some days because he's so tied up in figuring something out.

Kids bring their own lunches and can eat whenever they like. There is even an area set aside for them to take breaks and discuss other topics. These breaks are limited to 15 minutes 2 times a day and 45 minutes to eat lunch. None are required though and sometimes they eat lunch while working so they can finish something they are working on.

Cindy gets with Ms Lucy to call the local court house where the statue is sitting, to see if she can figure out who to talk to in order to learn more about it. Ben is researching it online to see what he can learn and they plan to put their information together into a hand written report. Eventually it will be typed into a word processor and become part of the overall project. This explains why each kid spends 15 minutes a day practicing his or her typing skills.

Jacob and Trever left with Jacob's mom to go video the court house and statue and to see what else they can film for their documentary. They learned this type of video is called "B" roll footage because it isn't the main

documentary but will be used as fill in material as they discuss the statue.

Each project they do, they learn more about their equipment they're using. Earlier this week Trever learned how to do Transitions so that the clips in a video don't cut each other off, but transition from one clip to another. There are all kinds of transitions you can use and he and Jacob have been playing around with all of them to find the ones they most like.

Throughout the process of their project, the kids, instead of being lectured to, are encouraged to research and learn on their own. The teams they are on, are competing with other teams in the school and each month the best projects are highlighted and shared. The winning teams receive more credits in their account to buy or rent more materials.

Some of the older kids have learned to build things like CNC tables that they can then rent to other kids to do their projects. So the kids are actually creating more tools and resources for everyone to use.

Once they return to the school, Jacob decides that he wants to modify his computer box to allow attaching an external mic to help in recording the videos. There is an entire area dedicated to electrical projects and he heads there to get started.

Meanwhile Trevor heads to a desk to start downloading the footage to the teams external drive so that he can start setting up B Roll for their upcoming film. He checks in with Cindy and Ben to see how they are doing and to share some of the shots they got. Cindy shares some exciting news about finding someone at the city building that agreed to do an interview with them tomorrow.

The real point to this type of learning is that instead of teachers talking all day about material the kids don't care about, we are instead, giving the kids basic instructions and letting their imaginations solve the problems. They stay interested in learning, don't get bored with teachers and instead of learning to do as they're told, they instead solve problems on their own.

During the course of the process though they are building things, paying for things, managing their time and setting goals to get things accomplished. Actual Life Skills!

# 4

## *The People*

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One of the things that is very different about an EU school are the people that assist the children. These can be parents, currently educated school teachers or professionals in industry. The idea behind an EU school is not to educate children based on the governments ideas of what an education is, but to educate them in a manner that helps them live a healthy life.

We want to be focused on the kids and not on a government system. Consider the fact that in our current system almost every kid to a Tee gets out of school having zero experience and no idea of what they might be interested in doing. This is not a new situation either, as I graduated from high school in 1985 with exactly the same problem. Even going to college I had no idea what I wanted to do and just latched onto something to study.

I want to be clear that I'm not bashing any teachers and I'm not saying that all teachers are bad people. They are all a product of what our government has setup for us to do. The fact that this system doesn't and never has worked is my only point.

In future chapters we will get to possible ways these schools will be setup and supported but right now I want to focus on the skill levels of the “teachers” you might need in order to support a typical school.

Currently in order to teach in school you must go through all sorts of educational classes. Some of these classes teach you how to teach and others teach you how to manage children’s minds in order to get them to learn new things. Very few of these teach them how to actually do something useful when they’re done.

Now, consider the possible occupations a kid may take on once they start their adult life. They are somewhat limited when you consider the number of people on the planet. Yet we all eventually choose one and make a living at it. Yet none of these occupations are taught in school and in most cases are never even mentioned.

Consider all of the people that might be willing to contribute a few hours a week to come into your school and work with kids in their subject matter. Currently this isn’t possible because the school system is too structured and on too much of a time line to allow for any distractions. Maybe they have someones dad come in and give a 15 minute talk on what they do for a living but in now way is this enough for any of them to consider it for a living.

I want to be clear about something else. I am in no way considering this book as “The” solution to this problem.



My goal in this book is to get people thinking about other possible ways to educate our kids and maybe it takes on a slightly different form when it's done. The main point is that our current system is not only broken but is quite possibly useless.

So mothers, fathers, teachers, plumbers, electricians, mathematics teachers, physics teachers and many others play an important role in the EU school system. You shouldn't need a degree in anything at all in order to assist in this school since most positions will be more of a tutor than a teacher.

# 5

## *The Courses*

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The important thing I hope you take away from these ideas is that the things our kids learn from school should be useful as they grow older. They should be geared towards making them successful in life and able to do whatever they set their minds toward. In my opinion one of the most important things anyone should get out of school is the fact that you don't need a teacher to learn something.

We should be able to setup projects that are related to things people really do for a living. Designing plumbing systems, wiring a house, building a house, flying an airplane, programming a computer.

Learning the basics such as reading, writing and communicating will come through working on each project and working with their team members. There should be no reason to bore the kids to death learning subjects they will NEVER use in life.

History, Literature and other such subjects can be taught by making up projects that require them to learn certain aspects of these things and then to do a documentary on a

specific portion. Making it fun to learn and giving them a point to spending the time on it.

Some projects should be required to perform, while others are optional or more specifically “Free” for them to pick and choose from. Each with a common goal of completing a documentary on the subject matter.

Another aspect of this process is that parents and family members will want to participate and watch the products their kids are creating because it entertains them and teaches them about interesting subjects they didn’t know themselves.

Let’s look at a simple example of a topic that every one of us is going to be disgusted by the second I say the word “Plumbing”. On the surface everyone is like “NO Way man, I’m not going to be a plumber”, without considering the fact that plumbers can and do make a lot of money and especially the ones that own the companies. But how would such a project work and how would the kids be interested in doing it?

Let’s say the project rules state that in order to complete this project they must first construct a simple toilet system complete with pipes and a bucket to catch the water. The first goal is to research how a toilet works, why do the pipes going out of the home or office curve the way they do and how much water needs to be contained in the toilet in order to flush the system. How large do they need to be

and what kind of slope is necessary for them to not get clogged. None of this has anything to do with “what” is actually flowing through these pipes, only the “how”.

Creating these pipes and parts will take time learning to cut and glue pipes, researching lengths and angles, determining how you will get the water in and where it goes once it is in the system. How much does it take to flush different objects through the system and what do you do if something gets stuck. Use a water proof camera system to record what is happening and make a documentary on the entire process.

As you can see, instead of studying a bunch of unrelated subjects and expecting the kids to learn and retain it, we’re accomplishing the same tasks, but instead, teaching them to perform real life skills. Even if they don’t want to be a plumber, they’ve been exposed to it and know how to deal with their own issues at home one day.

These projects will need to be created, documented and organized so that the age group working on it understands what they need to do. It might even spawn an entirely new industry where people create new projects that are submitted to the school systems for adoption into their programs. Perhaps you are paid per project completion or something. The point is, it allows people of all ages and skills to participate in teaching our kids to be in control of their own lives.

The most exciting thing to me though is the truly unlimited number of video tutorials, projects and resources already available on the Internet. Instead of leaving it up to Unions to decide what our kids should be taught and then taking years to modify courses, in this world they will have instant access to all sorts of cool projects and material.

We live in the only truly free country on earth, maybe ever in the history of mankind. Yet we allow the government that is supposed to be our servant, dictate how our kids are supposed to be educated. The primary and most important task of everything else, and they control it?

# 6

## *The Schools*

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So how do we setup such a school and how do we finance it? These are very good questions and I don't have a complete answer to either of them. I do have some ideas that I'll present here but they won't necessarily be "The" solution.

First off, I think that having one huge school that everyone goes to is the first problem. I do understand the logic behind it as there are a lot of kids needing to get taught and having one place for them all to come is much easier to maintain and manage. The problem with the solution though is that as soon as the school is built the school becomes the subject and the kids become objects moving through it. Instead of focusing on the kids, it focuses instead on making money, paying the bills, paying the teachers and moving everything along.

My ideal school would be a much smaller building located within communities and maintained by those communities. So a building would only need to be large enough for the kids within let's say a single neighborhood. Neighborhoods could even compete on certain projects and meet with each other from time to time to learn new

things. The schools could be run and managed by parents and bring in professionals in different subject matter when needed. In fact, this program should be designed in a way that parents wanting to educate their kids at home have access to the same material the school has. The point is to educate the kids, not to require them to participate in any one school. Some parents or neighborhood schools may even come up with programs that work even better and the kids have even more fun learning. These ideas should be shared with other parents in an open sourced educational system that no one person is in charge of and definitely not the government.

In the open source software industry, people come up with an idea "educating our kids" and multiple interested people begin to form groups and develop ideas on how to solve a particular problem. They begin organizing the code, developing ideas and eventually writing the software. Users get involved and start using the code and offering ideas on how to make it better or pointing out problems that need to be addressed. If the project is important enough, these groups can grow to thousands of people dedicating their time and resources to helping out. It is not uncommon for thousands of people to get together and work on plans and ideas and turn them into actual products and solutions. I'm suggesting we borrow from this and open source our education system.

Currently our state governments take money from every one of us and use that money to support their idea of an

education system. If this system worked then our kids would come out of school knowing how to make a living. Instead they come out of school with no idea what they want to do for a living but having 8 years of English courses they'll never use. All in the name of being tested so they can be compared to other kids in other states.

I personally don't feel that anyone should be giving their money to the government so that it can be given back to you for a school. The problem with this entire situation is that the government can then dictate when and under what conditions you must meet before they give you the money. Look right now at how the state and federal governments close schools and put rules on them to receive money. This has been done for many many years and needs to stop. It DOES NOT WORK!

So the question becomes, if the government is no longer going to be able to tax you for schools, then how do the schools get financed. Again, I don't claim to have all of the answers, I'm only trying to get the discussion started. But here are a few ideas I have.

- 1) It benefits every single business and business person in an area to have educated talented kids coming out of school. People that live in areas also work at companies even if they are not specifically located near by. So my first suggestion is that companies donate some amount to help out local schools.



- 2) These same companies have left over materials from jobs and some of their donations might be in the way of materials the school can use for projects.
- 3) Parents of the kids participating, instead of paying thousands of dollars a month for private schools may instead donate that money to their local school to help out.
- 4) Because it will no longer be necessary to have trained teachers doing all the educating, the expense of salaries should be minimal unless the local residents wish to hire professionals to work there everyday. This should be up to each local school as to how much money they can raise and who they wish to have helping the kids. Again, the teachers won't be teaching in the normal sense, but instead be there to help out if the kids get stuck or need additional help.
- 5) Poor areas that don't have the resources to build or rent a building to teach the kids should have additional assistance from local churches and community groups. Because these schools will be much smaller and more dedicated to kids in a specific complex or area, it will be much easier to deal with. Buildings may even be donated for the purpose of educating the kids since they aren't being built as huge complexes or the church itself might donate a building. We should be careful here as we don't want to force everyone to go to church in order to be educated so the experience should be non religious in nature for most schools but there would be nothing stopping churches from having their own schools.

- 6) In the poorer areas there may be a tax to the local businesses to help insure proper education facilities are procured but I would hope this could be done more affordably with people instead of getting the government involved.
- 7) Lastly, the schools need to be setup in a way that no one person has control over it. It should be a community thing and have a board of directors that are all able to see every element of the school budget along with other details. People left with a pile of money usually don't do well and the more open the environment the less interest there will be in taking away from the kids.

# 7

## *The Poor*

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One of the largest benefits I think to a program like this is the fact that parents are going to be more involved in their kids education than they currently are. The question to ask now though is why exactly are they uninvolved now? I think there are a number of reasons for this.

First off, the sheer size of the schools makes most people shy away from actual productive conversations about their kids and how they are doing. Teachers give report cards and information that glosses over what is really going on and while in front of lots of other people parents may be weary of saying too much. I guess I'd have to give a real world example here that I have personal experience with to show the issue.

We had our son in a private school up to the 3rd grade. I never felt like he was learning what he needed to learn the entire time he was there. Every few months there were parent teach conferences. We would show up and were limited to 30 minutes to talk to the teacher. The entire time we were there the teacher was going through all the great things Jacob was doing and showing all the check marks in

all the areas they had been working. I tried to ask questions about areas I felt he wasn't learning much and in every situation I was told that they were the experts and I needed to give it time. Not in exactly those words but the point was there. Basically I didn't understand the way kids learned and this was a new way of schooling and that one day he would just explode with knowledge. Or better said: "Keep paying us as long as you can stand it and we'll keep blowing smoke in the mean time."

In the end, when the virus hit I was forced to take him out of school and begin home schooling. This is the point at which I learned he really was farther behind than they had told me. In my head I was paying a lot of money to the school and expected them to do their job. Much the same way that when they are in public school, you expect your kid to be taught properly and you don't want to spend even more time doing something you were already paying someone else to do.

Another issue with the current school system is the things they are learning, most parents are completely uninterested in and in most cases don't even understand themselves.

There used to be a show on TV with Jeff Foxworthy titled "Are you smarter than a 5th grader." The problem is, none of us are, and the real question should be, why not. No one really wants to answer that question though, so here it is: Our kids are being taught useless skills they will never

use in the real world. So none of us can answer the questions that we ourselves had to learn earlier in life, because once we got out of that class we never used the information ever again.

The problem here is that I can take any subject, pick one, and build a curriculum around it that covers details no one will ever use. I do this in the name of education and cover material most parents are not going to understand, which causes them to falsely believe their kids are being educated based solely on the fact that it is complicated.

Only the government and teachers unions could take something as simple as multiplication tables and turn them into an exercise of stupidity. Hopefully this is enough to get my point across so let's continue.

Bringing the poor up is going to be a super tough task. This is based on a number of factors that are going to have to be overcome before you're going to start seeing success. These factors include: Parents that were not educated properly and are therefore not a good example for their own children. Environments that have no outs for kids to get away from in order to learn new things. Parents that have been so brain washed to believe insane things like, "their color is why they are poor", or "the system is designed for them to fail", or "it's everyone else's fault". These things are difficult to get the kids away from because they are also being brainwashed by their own parents to believe them.

The sad truth is that our very government that pretends to care about the kids is the very institution that has kept us all down. I went through the same public schools as everyone else and I can tell you that I also had no idea what I wanted to do for a living when I got out of school, had no idea how to do very much at all and only broke out of the funk by learning that I could teach myself anything and everything I wanted to learn. Sure it is nice to have good teachers and people to help speed up the process, but I did it with none of those. If I can do it then so can anyone else.

Ask yourself how many parents want to do school work with their kids. I would answer not many and I would put myself into that category. Most school work sent home by the schools makes my head hurt because I know none of it will be used after the next test my son has to take. It is complete drivel that NO ONE will ever use cooked up by someone that likely has NEVER had a real job in their life.

Dealing with the poor communities is most likely going to take a grass roots movement at a local level to get the ball rolling. I do believe that most people faced with an opportunity for their kids to learn real skills is going to take it. I also firmly believe that most kids faced with hanging out around their neighborhoods doing nothing or going to a local building within walking distance to work on that robot project to compete with the kids down the road, will more times than not go to that building.

# 8

## *Home Schooling*

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The elephant in the room, Home Schooling. This is a problem for us all since very few of us have the ability to school our own kids. I happen to be in a situation now to do this but most of my life it would have been impossible. To make matters worse, homeschooling in its current form is teaching the exact same material that is taught in the schools. So all the material covered earlier is still at issue.

Home Schooling in Georgia, which yes, it is slightly different in different states, requires you to spend 4 hours a day for 180 days a year teaching your kids all the core courses that our government has chosen as being required. They are not interested in your kids learning real skills, only that they can compare him/her to all the other kids in their public school system. Even though we all end up doing totally different things with our lives and a very very small percentage ever go on to use any of the skills they teach us.

However, these tests your kid is required to take have no bearing on your home school in most cases. Your kids could go take and fail every test and it wouldn't effect what you're doing. Focusing on the courses and material we're going to lay out in this book might cause them to fail the

English section of the test but should have them blowing away most of the test subjects in other areas. We're going to focus on what works, not on what our government officials tell us to do. If their methods worked then why do we have so many people in poverty in this country and so many people that can barely hold a job at the local Burger King?

This means that even today, without changing anything at all, we can begin to experiment with a new home schooling environment. One in which parents sign their kids up and can even help with raising money to pay for a location and the supplies they'll need to begin learning.

It is going to take a lot more than just me to come up with all the lessons and projects to make this work, and being open source it should be a fun exercise that we'll all learn from. Why do we need "Experts" to decide how kids learn and what they should and should not learn? Who decided they were experts to begin with, because from my point of view they are all complete idiots and incapable of teaching a monkey.

Research your state home schooling requirements and see if you can make this work, because chances are it isn't as difficult as you think. Also consider this: In the state of Georgia you must have a high school diploma or a GED in order to home school your kids. You have to cover subjects in Mathematics, English, History, Science and Reading, all of which will be part of our projects. Every 3



years after the 3rd grade your kid must take a nationally standardized test and the only requirement is they take the test and you keep the results in their file.

You don't have to submit any attendance sheets for when your child attended home schooling classes. You are required to teach your child for 180 days for at least 4-1/2 hours a day. This breaks down to roughly 3 hours a day if you go all year and can be broken down to smaller chunks throughout the day to keep your child from getting too bored.

The point here is that home schooling is a much more attractive solution than you might think and you should look into it before considering the ideas I'm putting forth too crazy. Another thing in Georgia is that if you do not have a high school diploma or GED you can hire a tutor that has at least a high school diploma or GED to do the instructing for you.

As we stated earlier, the people participating as a tutor here do not have to be experts in each field of study because the open source material will have all the supporting documentation and training materials for the student themselves to get through it. The tutor is just there to answer questions if they get stuck. Support groups can also be setup that enable immediate assistance from real experts that enjoy working with the kids and donate some of their time to do so.



# 9

## *Testing and Comparing*

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As we covered in the previous chapter, the only testing that is required currently is a federal requirement that they take a standardized test every 3 years. Passing or failing this test is not an issue as it is held by the parent to show they took it, not that they passed it. Of course we're basing this on the idea of using the current Home Schooling ability to take immediate action. If the government eventually revamps schools in this way then this won't matter and the standardized tests might eventually be removed. But if you think this will happen in your lifetime, you're fooling yourself.

Because we're more interested in our kids learning real world skills instead of what the US government deems necessary, it is possible there will be some lacking areas. If it is found these areas need to be covered in more detail then it is a simple matter of building another project that works through those areas so that the kids learn them. The point though is keeping the projects fun and useful for their lives. Taking tests for the sake of taking tests has never proven useful in any industry and is the main reason our kids come out of school so dumb and useless.

In our school, we're focusing more on learning the material than learning to take tests. But the question you're probably thinking is, well, wait, if we don't test them, how do we know they are learning the material? The answer I think is quite simple: They have to perform a video documentary of whatever the subject is for the project. Parents, Teachers and other students will be watching these videos and kids not learning the subject matter won't be able to complete the project. So the idea is that giving them something fun and competitive to work towards will make them WANT to learn the material so they can complete it.

Consider the fact that your kids pickup an iPad, iphone, computer or android and learn to search for, load and play games without asking you a single question. Do you need to test them later to see if they learned properly? Or is the mere fact that they're sitting there annoying the heck out of you by playing their games, enough for you to realize, they got it?

# 10

## *Useful Materials*

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One of the things that exist today that a lot of people don't know about are multiple companies and individuals developing learning materials for all sorts of things. Some are free, some are paid but there are tons of things out there in a number of different subjects.

Khan Academy ([www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)) is an example of a free site (that you should donate to) that builds learning materials for all sorts of subjects. Making a mandatory 1 Lesson a day for each child to perform as well as a 15 minute typing tutor at a free site like [www.typing.com](http://www.typing.com) are just 2 ways to fill close to an hour a day of their time with very little input on your side.

While there are a lot of sites you can visit that have lessons and books you can buy that teach kids to program for example, they aren't all written for kids. Some jump too quickly into the material with very few explanations to keep the kids interested. This means there is still a lot of material that needs to be created and thought out.

We don't need many books because books are too static. History, Literature and Science books lend themselves to

being static since that information never changes, but most of the material we'll be needing should be done in an electronic format so that we can quickly tweak and republish when we identify problem areas or things the kids are having trouble understanding.

As an example there is a book titled Python for Kids that I purchased for my son. The first few chapters were good enough, but the book quickly starts providing examples of things that confuses the kids and makes them bored. We need to rethink the process and make it more fun for them to perform the tasks in order to learn to program.

Programming is not for everyone but it teaches you to think critically and logically throughout the process. Even if you end up not enjoying the programming aspect you will still learn a great deal just by going through the exercises. In addition, you learn that every electronic device you use all day long doesn't use magic to work. People actually sat down and wrote code to make them all perform.

Scratch (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>) is another free site that younger kids can use to learn to program. Turtle Academy ( <https://turtleacademy.com/>) is another site. <http://inventwithpython.com/> contains a number of books about python to help with learning and you can even create your own games with python to make it more interesting.

So one of the tasks of this new learning system will be to find and create additional learning sites that can be

incorporated into the process to keep the kids interested in learning and progressing into the lives they deserve to have.

# 11

## *In Completion*

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This is a huge project that is going to take an army to fully bring to life. I'm only here bringing up the idea because I believe in all my heart that it is the ONLY way to get our kids competitive and useful in the world they will be kicked into by the time they are 18. Do we want to force them through a huge debt and additional years of their life learning even more useless drivel or do we want to get them started creating and building off their hungry little brains that never got bored learning new things?

I have been considering and thinking about this method of teaching kids for a very long time. I probably wouldn't have done anything about it except for the fact that I'm watching the product of our governments education system running through our streets and burning down our buildings and killing each other. If there was ever a time to say "It's TIME" this would be it. So instead of sitting back and only thinking about it I'm going to push this ahead.

It may end up going no where, but like everything else in my life, I am willing to work hard to try. It is going to take a lot of work from a lot of people to bring it truly to life.



Hopefully I can get enough of you to help me out. In the mean time I'm starting a website where I'll begin to document projects starting at the 4th grade level and working up from there. I'm planning to open source the entire system so that anyone can pick it up and use it and any new projects added will also be free. The only thing needing money will be for materials and tools needed to complete the projects.

Hopefully you will be able to procure donations and assistance to get your school setup and please share what you're doing with us so that we can communicate the ideas to other parents. This will be a huge learning process for not only our kids but for us as well.

Lets make this happen!

Visit [www.educateme.us](http://www.educateme.us) to continue this journey and make our kids smarter than we ever thought they could be.