Hijacking Their Minds: How ‘safe schools’ & social emotional learning indoctrinate our children

Karen R. Effrem, M.D.
Education Liberty Watch

Social and Emotional Learning

". . . the processes through which children . . . acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. [The goal is to create] a good student, citizen, and worker."

Source: Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

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Social and Emotional Learning Components

- Self-awareness
- Self-management
- Social awareness
- Relationship skills
- Responsible decision making, including ethical decision-making

Source: Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

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SEL Efforts of CASEL Funders

Novo Foundation

- Social Justice
- Transgenderism

Robert Wood Johnson

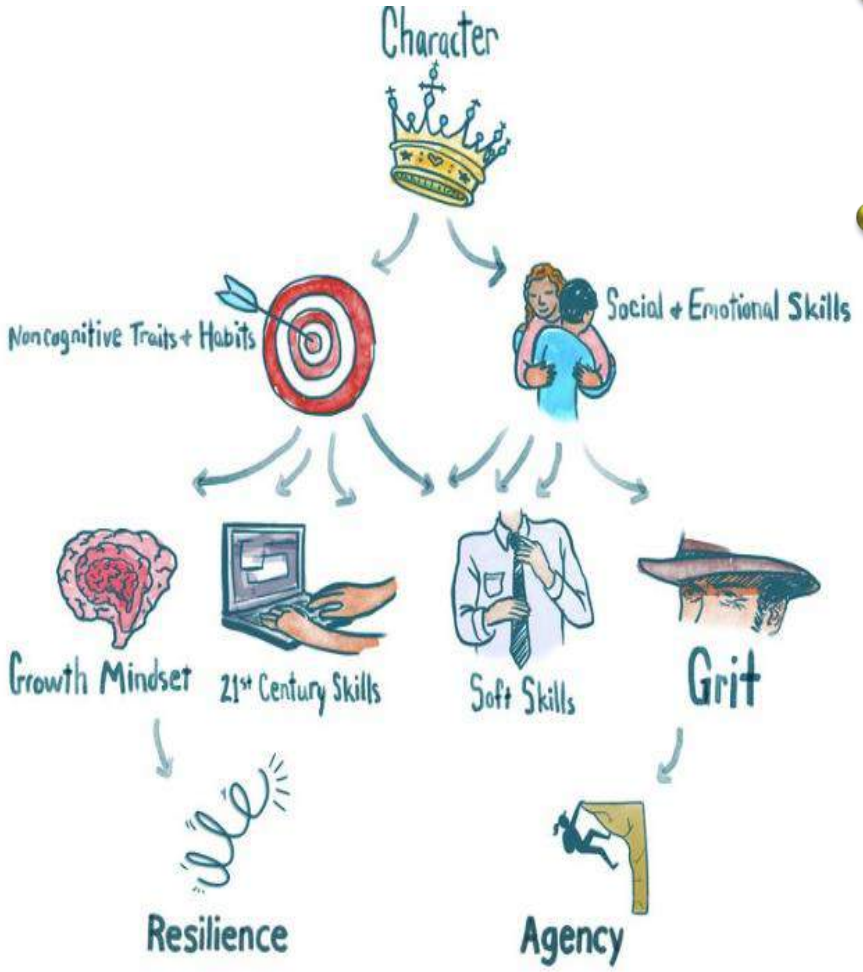
- Bemoans effect of climate change on “health & equity”
- Promotes socialized healthcare

1440 Foundation

- Buddhist mindfulness techniques

Source: Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

SEL – No One Can Define It



- "Social Emotional Skills: Everyone Loves Them, But Still Can't Define Them" (NPR 8/14/17)
- "To create SEL standards and assess progress toward those standards presupposes that we agree about what SEL is. Yet neither researchers nor practitioners nor policymakers have come to such a consensus." (Brookings – *Future of Children* – Spring 2017)

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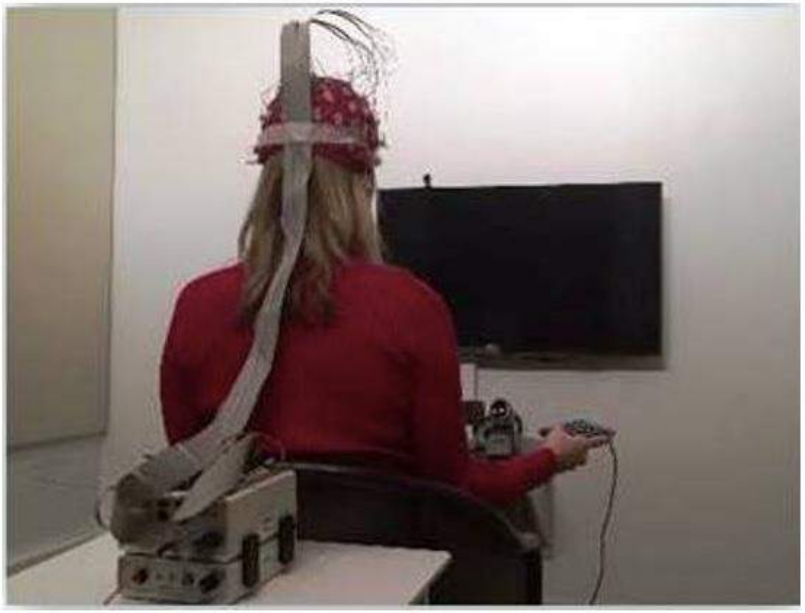
SEL – No One Can Assess It



- "We have few usable, feasible, and scalable tools to assess children's SEL." (Brookings – *Future of Children – Spring* 2017)
- "The measurements that psychologists like me have are so awful! I mean they are fakeable, imprecise, they have a thousand biases." ("Grit Guru" Angela Duckworth at ExcelinEd.org [Jeb Bush] conference 2016)

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SEL – No One Can Explain Study Results

"We know these skills are essential for children, ***but there's still a lot we don't know about ways to enhance them***,' said [Professor] Megan McClelland…***'The results to date have been mixed***'…There's also a ***general lack of long-term studies*** that might give researchers a clearer picture of the programs' effectiveness"- 2017 CASEL Meta-analysis

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Pre-K SEL Skills NOT Predictive

"Early math skills have the greatest predictive power, followed by reading and then attention skills. By contrast, ***measures of socioemotional behaviors…were generally insignificant predictors of later academic performance, even among children with relatively high levels of problem behavior."***

Source – Duncan, et. al. – *School Readiness and Later Achievement – Developmental Psychology, 43(6), 1428-1446*

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Federal Government Pushing SEL

- ESSA allows measures of SEL in school accountability (§ 1111(c)(4)(B)(v)) and provides grants for SEL (§ 4107(a)).
- NAEP & state assessments starting to include SEL surveys
- Proposed reauthorization of ESRA [SETRA] would have allowed federal research and data-collection on children's SEL.
- Head Start
- Fund CASEL via IES

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Obama Administration Was a Big Fan of SEL

"Grit, resilience, tenacity, perseverance" should be taught "in a systemic way" (Former USED Secretary Arne Duncan House testimony, April 29, 2014).

SEL Clearly Linked to Common Core

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“I believe this bill [ESSA] gets us back to redefining what the Common Core is…regulating your own emotional state. This comes well before science, technology, engineering, and math.”

Congressman Tim Ryan (D-OH) during ESSA debate 12/15

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Early Learning Challenge Profiles

MINNESOTA

N0N-ACADEMIC (SEL) STANDARDS:

"The state's existing birth-to-five child development standards will be aligned with K-12 standards, which will be expanded to ***include non-academic developmental domains for children ages five to 12***."

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Early Learning Challenge Profiles

RHODE ISLAND

SEL Assessment and Data Tracking

"Rhode Island's proposed early learning data system ***will be linked to both the state's K-12 data system and to the state's universal newborn screening and health data system***, helping to identify children with high needs, track participation in programs, and track children's development and learning."

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Newborn Screening Samples Used for Research without Consent

"Newborn screening is the most widely performed type of genetic testing in the United States today. . . . ***Most states, including New York, do not require parental consent***. . . .Most newborn screening programs, including New York's program, ***store residual newborn blood samples (bloodspots) and use them for research***." ("Genetic Testing and Screening in the Age of Genomic Medicine" [Exec. Summary], NY Dept. of Health)

Treating Genetic Susceptibility

"General pediatricians don't have to be behavioral health specialists, but they can still intervene. Psychopharmacology is on the horizon as ***preventive therapy for children with genetic susceptibility to mental health problems.***" — (Emphasis added.) David W. Willis, M.D., Medical Director of the Northwest Early Childhood Institute in Portland, Oregon, as quoted in *Pediatric News*, January, 2004

Preschool SEL

- ESSA pre-K program requires alignment with Head Start statute, which requires federal Head Start pre-K “baby Common Core” content standards in 11 places.
- Content standards include subjective & controversial SEL standards for children.
- State pre-K standards must align with Head Start standards & coordinate data-sharing with Head Start

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Head Start SEL Standards

INDICATORS

By 36 Months

- Recognizes own name.
- Identifies some physical characteristics of self, such as hair color, age gender, or size.
- Recognizes some similarities and differences between self and others.

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Gender Identity

"Refers to a person's internal, deeply felt sense of being either *male or female, or something other or in between*. Because gender identity is internal and personally defined, it is not visible to others." (Emphasis added.)

Sources: Making Room in the Circle Preschool Curriculum & Transgender Education & Legal Defense Fund; http://www.transgenderlegal.org/media/uploads/doc_22.pdf

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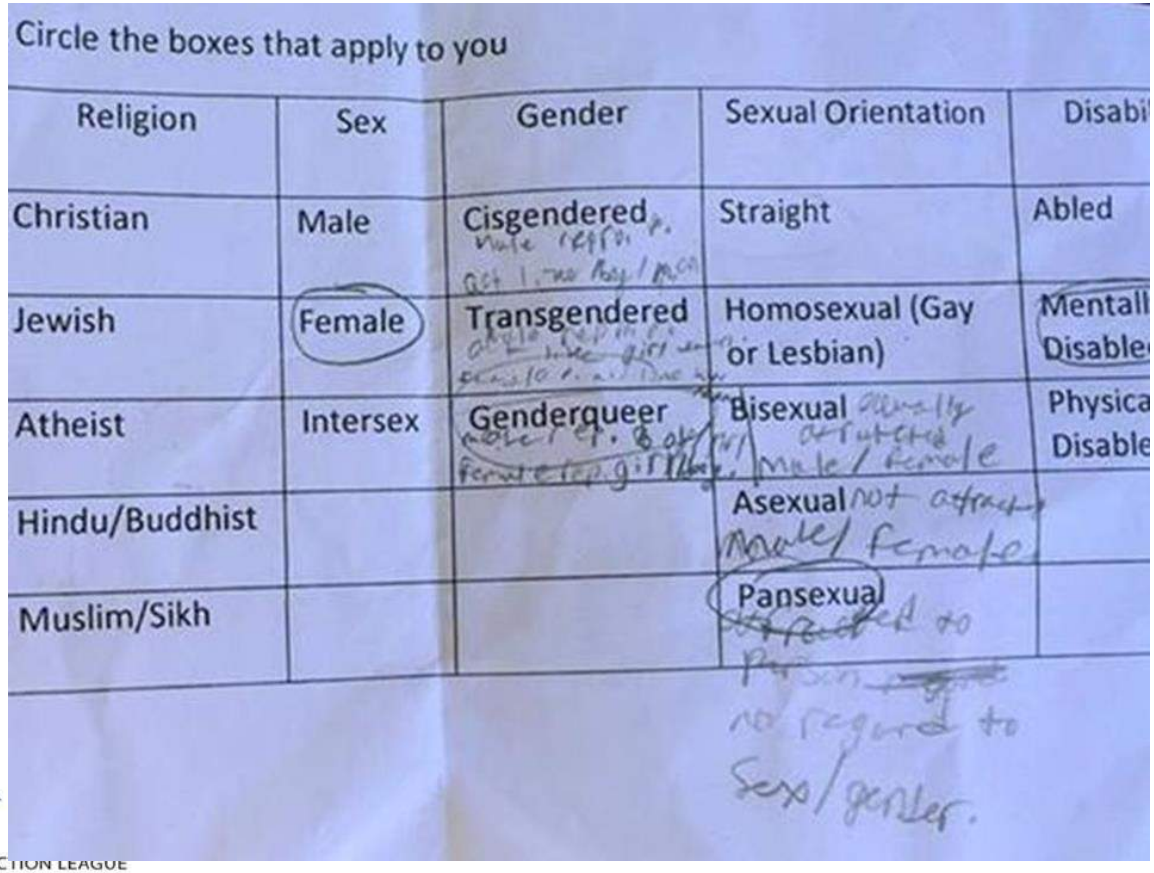
USED Continuing to Promote Transgenderism Despite Removal of "Dear Colleague" Letter

USED's Office of Civil Rights can still intervene if there is:

- "Failure to promptly and equitably resolve a transgender student's complaint of sex discrimination"
- "Refusing to use a transgender student's preferred name or pronouns when the school uses preferred names for gender-conforming students" and other issues creating a "hostile environment"
- different treatment based on sex stereotyping (e.g., based on a student's failure to conform to stereotyped notions of masculinity or femininity)

Source – USED Guidance Letter 6/6/17 https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/3866816/OCR-Instructions-to-the-Field-Re-Transgender.pdf

Invasive Assessments



Circle the boxes that apply to you

Religion	Sex	Gender	Sexual Orientation	Disabi
Christian	Male	Cisgendered	Straight	Abled
Jewish	Female	Transgendered	Homosexual (Gay or Lesbian)	Mentall Disable
Atheist	Intersex	Genderqueer	Bisexual	Physica Disable
Hindu/Buddhist			Asexual	
Muslim/Sikh			Pansexual	

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Social & Emotional Needs of Students: An Islamic Perspective

October 3, 2016

BY: Sr. Fahmeeda Hassan

"Creation of a cooperative classroom climate and establishing positive teaching is what our beloved Prophet did. He established a community of support and molded his life according to the teachings of the Qur'an. He never used foul language, insulted anyone, beat a servant, or a woman, or anyone else."

How Does Jihad, Decapitation, and Enslavement Establish a "Community of Support"?

Quaran 47.4 "So when you meet those who disbelieve [in battle], strike [their] necks until, when you have inflicted slaughter upon them, then secure their bonds, and either [confer] favor afterwards or ransom [them] until the war lays down its burdens."

Federally Funded Islamic Curriculum

1. Explain to students that you will be looking at each pillar in detail beginning with the first pillar, which is Shahadah or belief. To begin, go to the BBC website www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/customs/shahadah/index.shtml. Have students read about what it means to proclaim faith or belief as a Muslim. Have students, individually, silently read the Shahadah. Ask the students to think about what the Shahadah means. Why do they think that this statement is a significant part of being a Muslim? Record their thoughts on their Student Response Sheet 2: The Five Pillars of Islam handout, and discuss these questions as a class.

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Digital Learning Tied to Common Core

Bill Gates

"***Proficiency-Based Pathways***. Education leaders have long talked about setting rigorous standards and allowing students more or less time as needed to demonstrate mastery of subjects and skills. This has been more a promise than a reality, ***but we believe it's possible with the convergence of the Common Core State Standards, the work on new standards-based assessments, the development of new data systems, and the rapid growth of technology-enabled learning experiences***…"

– Gates Foundation: Supporting Students Investing in Innovation and Quality https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/Documents/supporting-students.pdf, p. 6

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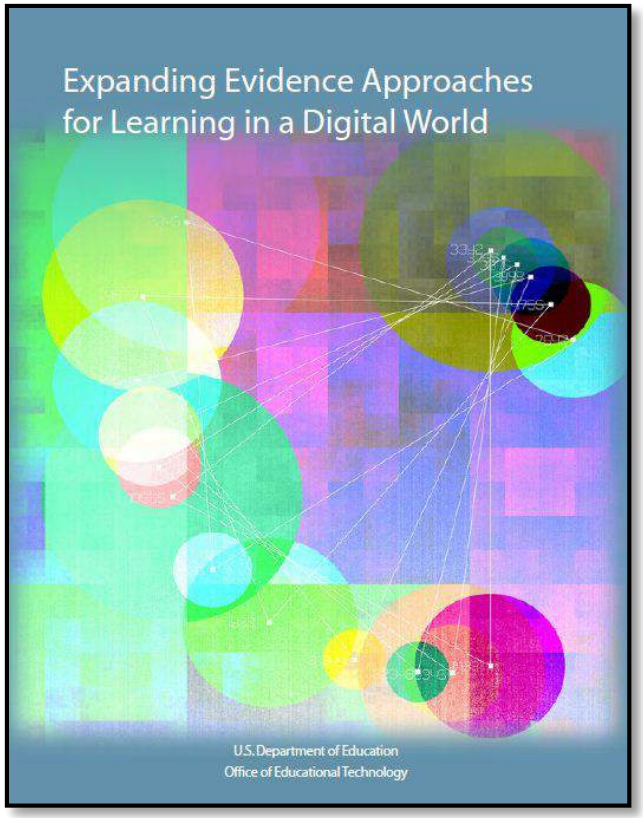
Digital Learning



Can measure ***"noncognitive" aspects such as collaboration, persistence, leadership***, by capturing "micro-level data on [students'] problem-solving sequences, knowledge, and strategy use, including each student's selections or inputs, the number of attempts a student makes, the number of hints and feedback given, and the time allocated across each part of the problem."

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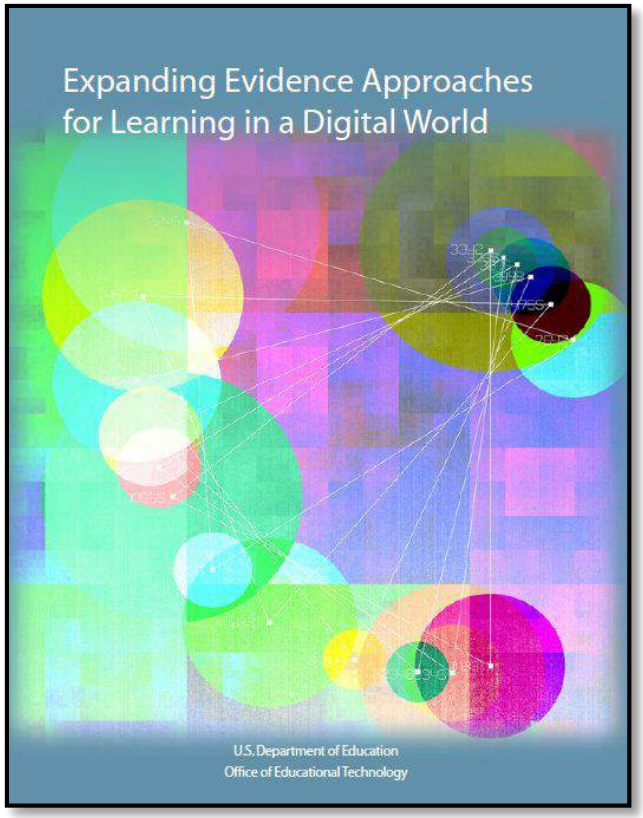
Digital Learning



"Some of these new digital learning resources are sophisticated systems capable of collecting large amounts of fine-grained data as users interact with them . . . ***[L]earners will generate vast quantities of data . . . .***"

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CEO of Knewton bragged about software that mines ***“5-10 million actionable data [points] per user per day.”***

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Intrusive Data Mining

Common Core is part of a larger scheme that encourages states to collect over 400 data points on each student, including SEL. The data will go into state databases – which are identically built, and therefore sharable & can be used for predictive testing.

The **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act** was gutted in 2012 to allow almost unlimited data-sharing, without parental consent.

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Promoting Grit, Tenacity, and Perseverance:

Critical Factors for Success in the 21st Century

February 2013

DRAFT

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Technology

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Facial Expression Camera	Posture Analysis Seat	Pressure Mouse	Wireless Skin Conductance Sensor

Source: Woolf, B., Burleson, W., Arroyo, I., Dragon, T., Cooper, D., & Picard, R. (2009). Affect-aware tutors: Recognising and responding to student affect. *International Journal of Learning Technology*, 3/4, 129–164.

"These high-fidelity data are in the form of log files from mouse clicks within the digital learning environment. They also ***measure and monitor things like students' saccadic eye patterns as students learn from visual and textual information sources, data from sensors tracking facial expressions and posture, and more.*** These data are all fine-grained, reflecting students' learning processes, knowledge, ***affective states*** . . . ."

Source: https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2016-05-13/op-ed-educational-data-mining-can-enhance-science-education.

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Michael Petrilli, President
The Thomas B. Fordham Institute

"Gates-led" rather than "State-led"

"It is not unfair to say that the Gates Foundation's agenda has become the country's agenda in education."

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Walton Family Foundation, National Center on Education & the Economy, The Pearson Foundation, U. S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Foundation for Excellence in Education (Jeb Bush), American Federation for Children, the Philanthropy Roundtable, the Fordham Institute, the National PTA, the NEA.

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ESSA Pushes Workforce-Development Training

Requires coordination of state plans with 11 federal statutes, including Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Source: ESSA § 1111(a)(1)(B)

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Workforce Data Quality Initiative Grant Program

Government will track students into the workforce by combining education, including SEL data, and labor data.

Fulfills vision of Marc Tucker, who recommended to Hillary Clinton (1992) a government-managed education/workforce structure coordinated by "a system of labor market boards at the local, state and federal levels" with integrated curriculum and "job matching" via the "computer-based system."

Sources: https://www.doleta.gov/performance/workforcedatagrant09.cfm; https://axiomamuse.wordpress.com/2010/09/25/transforming-education-marc-tuckers-dear-hillary-letter/

Why de-emphasize content in favor of “skills”?

Students educated in logic, history, and great literature are less gullible, less malleable.

“[I]f you work hard and intelligently, you should be able to detect when a man is talking rot, and that, in my view, is the main, if not the sole, purpose of education.”

- *Source*: John Alexander Smith, Professor of Moral Philosophy, speaking to the entering freshman class at Oxford University, 1914

“If education is beaten by training, civilization dies.”

- *Source*: C.S. Lewis, "Our English Syllabus," in his Rehabilitations and Other Essays (London: Oxford UP, 1939), pp. 81-82.

Video-Gaming in the Classroom

- Gaming can “change the world” by giving players a substitute reality and can be the next step in human evolution. *Source*: Jane McGonigle, Director of Game Research and Development, Institute for the Future, Palo Alto, CA TED talk – “Gaming Can Make a Better World” – February 2010
- But “not just about changing their brain, it’s about changing society itself.” *Source*: Dr. James Gee, Professor of Literacy Studies, Arizona State University Speaking at “Using Video Games to Assess Students’ Noncognitive Skills” webinar, May 6, 2014

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SEL & Transgenderism Also Part of Leftist Effor to Destroy Families & Religion

Dr. Wilhelm Reich coined term “sexual revolution” in 1920’s believing:

- Marxist utopia could not be achieved until religion was eradicated
- Western societies had to be “hollowed out from within” by destroying the family
- Fatherless children do not attend church
- That normalizing all sorts of sexual activity & perversion would create fatherless families
- Sex education would “divest parents of their moral authority.”

Some Good News

- Parent activists able to stop the funding of SEL research in federal research/data bill for an entire two year session of Congress
- Congress & data commission seem to be listening to concerns about collecting college/workforce data
- Trump administration may revoke some more egregious fed ed regulations

What Congress Can Do

- Support two-parent family formation in welfare reform
- Deny funding for SEL standards, assessments, data collection –
  - No SEL research in ESRA reauthorization
  - Enforce current law regarding attitude/mindset testing in state tests and plans and NAEP
  - Demand elimination of revamp of the SEL standards in Head Start
- Demand revocation of 2012 FERPA regulation & update it legislatively
- Oppose proposed expansion of data collection
- Return local/state control of standards/tests & state plans

What You Can Do

- Pray for our children, schools, families and leaders
- Contemplate removing children from public school
- Opt out of any testing and data requests
- Regularly review and update your child's data profile
- Fight at the local level to remind officials that these bad ideas have been rejected and withdrawn
- Talk to state and local officials and urge them not to accept SEL and other problematic federal grants
- Talk to your members of Congress about these issues

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John Adams - 1776

“Driven from every other corner of the earth, freedom of thought and the right of private judgment in matters of conscience direct [new Americans] . . . to this happy country as their last asylum.”

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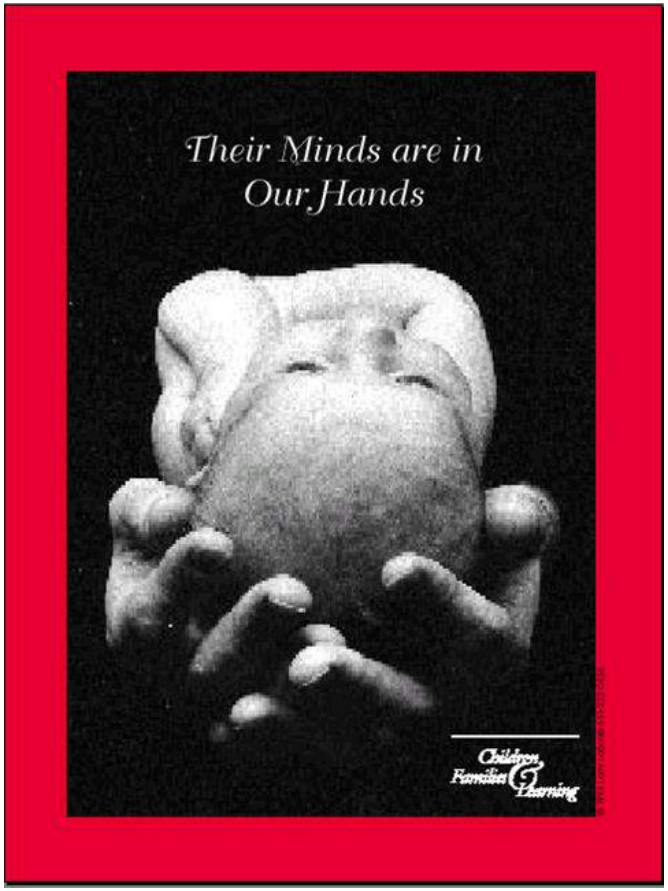
Who Will Control the Minds of Our Children?



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