

The Increasing Burden on America's Public Schools

(adapted from Jamie Vollmer's 2010 book *Schools Cannot Do It Alone*)

1700 and 1800s – a simple contract between schools and families existed:

“Teach my kid.”

The basic education included reading, writing, and arithmetic, along with some history and civics lessons to cultivate values for students to be part of a contributing member of a democratic society.

Enter the 1900s and the Industrial Revolution. Schools were seen by politicians and business leaders as the logical place to socialize and assimilate an influx of immigrants.

1900 to 1910 public schools added responsibility in:

- Nutrition
- Immunizations
- Health

1910 to 1930s public schools added responsibility in:

- Physical Education and Organized Athletics
- Practical Arts / Home Economics
- Industrial Arts / Agriculture / Vocational Education
- Mandated School Transportation

1940s public schools added responsibility in:

- Business Education (Typing, Shorthand, Bookkeeping)
- Art and Music Education
- Speech and Drama
- School Lunch Programs
- Half-Day Kindergarten

1950s public schools added responsibility in:

- Expanded Science and Math Education (Sputnik induced)
- Safety Education
- Driver's Education
- Expanded Art and Music Education
- Foreign Language Education
- Sex Education

1960s public schools added responsibility in:

- AP Courses
- Head Start Programs
- Title I Programs [result of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)]
- Adult Education
- Consumer Education
- Career Education
- Peace, Leisure, and Recreation Education (ahh the 60s)

A new social contract emerges:

“Raise my kid.”

More and more mandates without a single day or minute having been added to most school calendars.

1970s public schools added responsibility in:

- Special Education
- Title IX Programs
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs
- Parent Education
- Behavior Adjustment Classes
- Character Education
- Environmental Education
- Women's Studies
- African-American Heritage Studies
- School Breakfast Programs

1980s public schools added responsibility in:

- Keyboarding and Computer Education
- Global Education (*A Nation at Risk* induced)
- Multicultural / Ethnic Education
- English as a Second Language Education
- Teen Pregnancy Awareness
- Hispanic Heritage Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Jump Start, Early Start, Even Start, Prime Start
- Full-Day Kindergarten
- Pre-School Programs
- After-School Programs
- Alternative Education
- Stranger Danger Education
- Anti-Smoking Education
- Sexual Abuse Education
- Expanded Health and Psychological Services
- All Teachers Mandated Reporters for Suspected Child Abuse

1990s public schools added responsibility in:

- Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Programs
- HIV/AIDS Education
- CPR Training
- Death Education
- Internet Education
- Inclusion Programs
- School to Work Programs
- Post-Secondary Enrollment Options
- Concurrent Enrollment Options

- Expanded Gifted and Talented Programs
- At-Risk and Dropout Prevention
- Shared Decision Making Teams
- Annual Professional Performance Reviews
- Professional Development Plans
- New Teacher Mentor Programs
- Standards-Based Curricula
- Gang Education (in urban areas)
- Bus Safety, Bicycle Safety, Gun Safety, and Water Safety

2000s public schools added responsibility in:

- Greater Safety and Security of Facilities (Columbine and 9/11 induced)
- Bullying Prevention
- Anti-Harassment Policies
- No Child Left Behind (reauthorization of ESEA from the 60s) induced:
 - More high-stakes, standardized tests
 - Penalties for not making Adequate Yearly Progress
- Expanded Early Childhood Programs
- Body Mass Index Evaluation (childhood obesity increase induced)
- Organ Donor Education
- Media Literacy
- Personal Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurial Skills
- Wellness Programs and Policies
- Race to the Top induced
 - More Rigorous Assessments (to compete with international assessments like NAEP and PISA)
 - Common Core Standards
 - Statewide Data Systems
 - Accountability Systems for Teachers and Principals linked to Student Performance
 - Penalties for Underperforming Schools