

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

"My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge" HOSEA 4:6

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The purpose of this newsletter is to provide knowledge for parents and educators who want to save the children of America from the destructive forces that endanger them. Our children in the public schools are at grave risk in 4 ways: academically, spiritually, morally, and physically — and only a well-informed public will be able to reduce these risks.
"Without vision, the people perish."

Kentucky's OBE Experiment: Conflict, Confusion, and Lower Scores

Kentucky's adoption of Outcome-Based Education in 1990 was the result of the Kentucky Supreme Court's declaration on June 8, 1989, that the state's entire education system, in "all its parts and parcels," was unconstitutional. Presumably the system was unconstitutional because it did not provide equity in funding for all of the schools, and therefore did not give each child an equal education. Of course, the concept of equal education is as phony as the idea that all children have a right to be born to rich, loving parents. But today's courts believe that they can remake reality by judicial declaration. The Supreme Court went on to issue the following directive:

Since we have, by this decision, declared the system of common schools in Kentucky to be unconstitutional, Section 183 places an absolute duty on the General Assembly to re-create, re-establish a new system of common schools in the Commonwealth. . . . We view this decision as an opportunity for the General Assembly to launch the Commonwealth into a new era of educational opportunity which will ensure a strong economic, cultural and political future.

The judges, giddy with the godlike

power of having overturned the state's education system, then issued their "Seven Capacities" which, they said, should define the new curriculum for the schools. The Seven Capacities and their implications were spelled out in a reform proposal drawn up by Betty E. Steffy, Deputy Superintendent for Instruction, dated Aug. 21, 1989, and presented to the legislature. They read as follows:

1. Oral and Written Communication for a Complex, Rapidly Changing Civilization. Implies: Knowledge of the liberal arts, use of technology, life-long learning, human relations skills.

Let's deal with that first. The method of teaching reading and writing in OBE is whole language and invented spelling. Whole language produces crippled readers because it trains the child to view words holistically by their configurations instead of phonetically by their syllabic structure. To put it simply, ours is an alphabetic writing system in which letters stand for speech sounds. The way you become a proficient reader is to develop an automatic association between letters and sounds. That's how you develop

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