

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 those risks.
"Without vision, the people perish."

The SAT Disaster of 1988

We are now in the fifth year of the education reform movement, but the SAT scores of 1988 tell a different story, that of continued academic decline. In some states that decline has been staggering.

42 States Decline

Since 1985, the verbal score has declined 23 points in South Dakota; 21 points in Wyoming and Montana; 18 points in Arizona; 17 points in Washington and West Virginia; 16 points in Kentucky; 15 points in North Dakota; 14 points in Oklahoma; 13 points in Utah and Colorado; 11 points in Minnesota and Delaware; 10 points in Michigan, Kansas and Nebraska; 8 points in Iowa and Ohio; 7 points in Mississippi and New York; 6 points in New Mexico; 5 points in Alaska, Idaho and Virginia; 4 points in Connecticut, Illinois, Missouri, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont and Wisconsin; 3 points in Indiana and Oregon; 2 points in Arkansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts and Texas; 1 point in Alabama, Nevada, and New Jersey.

California showed no improvement. In 1978 its verbal score was 427; in 1988 it was 424.

7 States Improve

Only seven states showed an improvement in verbal scores: Florida, 1 point; Rhode Island, 2 points; Louisiana and North Carolina, 3 points; Georgia, 5 points; Hawaii, 7 points; South Carolina, 9 points. South Carolina, with a verbal score of 400, is still at the bottom; North Carolina, with 401, is second from the bottom; Georgia, with 404, is third; and Hawaii, with 408, is fourth.

It is being said that the drop in verbal scores in some states is due to more graduates taking the SAT. Yet, in those few states that showed an improvement, the percentage of graduates taking the test also increased.

It is obvious that the lower scores represent a real decline in literacy skills.

More Students Coached

It should also be noted that more and more students are using outside coaching courses to prepare for the SAT. In a study conducted by the College Board, which administers the SAT, it was found that 11 percent of the students used test-preparation

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