

Columbus and Ohio School Funding

It is a commonly accepted fact that our future depends on our children: if they are happy and realize their mission and purpose of life, understand what is wrong and what is right, see their place in this world, there will be no reason to worry about the range of criminality, suicidal actions and other miseries that occur in our society. It is remarkable that the future finds its starting point in the process of upbringing which takes place not only in a family, but also at school, during the lessons and extracurricular activities. Therefore, it is particularly outrageous when a child is not given appropriate education and upbringing because of the lack of money. Should this money be an obstacle for the successful and prosperous future of our children and the whole society? This paper is aimed at discussing why the educational system should be reinvested and the plan of its funding should be reconsidered.

Because of financial problems, Ohio and the District of Columbia are under the danger of being included into the fiscal emergency list. For the ordinary citizens, it means that funding of several educational establishments will be pruned. Gradually, the equipment that has been provided to schools will become outdated and of defective condition; the curriculum will be cut, and the knowledge children get at school will not be enough for successful career building and future development of a strong community; extracurricular activities which are so vital for the all-round development of the young generation will be eliminated (Wandersleben and Wandersleben).

The government recognizes the problem of closing several elementary schools admitting that these measures are insufficient for covering the budget deficit. The community of the District Columbia also participates in the process of solving the problem with budget and levy: people see the solution in the levy increase to the

amount of \$10 which would add more than two million to the budget. Eric and Christina Wandersleben admit that ten dollars per month provided by every citizen would be a great investment in children, their life, and destiny (ibid.).

The community of Ohio supports another approach to solving the problem. There is a certain chance to win the federal Race to the Top education funds (Kissell). It would add \$400 million for the Ohio budget. The opportunity is rather promising if it were not for the fact that Tennessee and Delaware were the only states selected to receive funding in the first round. Ohio got the tenth place (ibid.). Taking this into account, it is possible to state that the approach chosen by the community of Ohio seems to be less effective than that offered by Columbia.

After all, implementation of the activity proposed by the community of the District Columbia depends on the choice of its citizens. Still, it is encouraging that its citizens are ready to take drastic measures to improve the destiny of their children and community on the whole, "Our children rely on adults to do the right thing by saying yes to equipping them with the tools needed to succeed. In today's fast-paced, technology-driven workplace, our children will need a strong academic foundation to thrive" (Wandersleben and Wandersleben).

Works Cited

Kissell, Margo Rutledge. "Districts Hope for Federal Funds Ohio Would Need to Be Selected for Race to the Top Program for School Money." *Dayton Daily News*. 8 June 2010. 4 Nov. 2010 <<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-22142185.html>>.

Wandersleben Eric, and Cristina Wandersleben. "School Levy Crucial to Southwest Licking." *The Columbus Dispatch*. 28 Sept. 2010. 4 Nov. 2010 <<http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/editorials/stories/2010/09/28/school-levy-crucial-to-southwest-licking.html?sid=101&print=yes>>.