

For Immediate Release

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Hooray for Education First. Academic & Career Coach Applauds Efforts of Supporters of Public Education in South Carolina

Clemson, SC -- Though I am not affiliated with Education First, I applaud their efforts. You see, Education First – a coalition of supporters of public education – is planning an advertising campaign to keep pressure on state lawmakers to put more money into the state’s schools.

Now I’m not certain that this strategy will work but at least someone has a pulse when it comes to education in South Carolina. A great and tremendous challenge for education is not only influencing lawmakers to put more into the schools, but overcoming the court’s “judicious” decisions. When it was ruled that the state has “met its legal obligations to the schools” and that the Supreme Court’s definition of this as giving children the opportunity to receive a “minimally adequate education,” this created an uphill battle.

With the state’s recent graduation rate (53.8%), we can see the fruits of a “minimally adequate education.” Since the Supreme Court defined the legal obligation as giving a minimally adequate education, let’s define exactly what that is.

- Minimally, a derivative of the word minimum is defined as the least amount possible, allowable or the like.
- Adequate, an adjective, is defined as fully sufficient, suitable or fit.
- Oxymoron is defined as “minimally adequate education.

So when the state lawmakers and Supreme Court buy into this oxymoronic legal definition:

- there should be no surprises when the state’s graduation rate is at the bottom of the list
- there should be no surprises when our students do not graduate (or aspire to)
- there should be no surprises when standardized test scores (i.e. SAT) continually reside near the bottom

What is a surprise, however, is the reluctance to bring ALL schools up to the standards that will provide students with a maximum education.

My dad, who has since passed, used to say something when I was younger that, at the time, I did not fully understand. However, with the decision to accept “minimally adequate education” as an excuse for not funding schools the way that they should, I now understand what my dad meant. He used to say, “Some people have so much education they’re stupid.”

Again, I applaud the efforts of Education First; because if we do not put education first, there should be no surprises as to why we are last.

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