

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."

Another Year of SAT Doldrums 1994 Verbal Score One Point Above Bottom

According to the 1994 SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test, formerly known as the Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores released by The College Board last August, not much progress in academics has been made by America's college-bound students. The national verbal score of 423 is just one point above the lowest score of 422 achieved in 1991 and 30 points below the 1972 score of 453, while in mathematics the 1994 national score of 479 is only one point above that of 1993 but five points below the 1972 score of 484.

Actually, there has been a steady improvement in mathematics scores from 471 in 1984 to 479 in 1994. However, the verbal score of 426 in 1984 is down to 423 in 1994. Obviously, ten years of intensive educational reform, including curriculum innovation, school restructuring, and generous raises in teachers' salaries, haven't done much, if anything, to improve academics.

In Kentucky, where they've had full-blown Outcome-Based Education since 1990, the verbal score has gone from 479 in 1984 to 474 in 1994. In math it has gone from 518 in 1984 to 523 in 1994, a five point improvement

at the cost of many millions of dollars.

In Pennsylvania, where the debate over OBE has been most intense, the verbal score in 1984 was 425, in 1994 it's 417. The math score of 462 in 1984 is exactly the same in 1994.

In Texas, where the legislature enacted Ross Perot's sweeping education reform plan some years ago, the verbal score in 1984 was 413. In 1994 it was down to 412. The math 1984 score was 453. Ten years later it was 474. Reading is down, but math is up. Why? Is reading more difficult than algebra and calculus?

The following twelve states showed declines both in verbal and math scores from 1984 to 1994: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

The following sixteen states showed improvement in both verbal and math scores since 1984: Alabama, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

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