

Efforts At Public Education Reforms

1918 - Solidification of public schools as an America institution - By this year, roughly two-thirds of children were enrolled in government schools and all states had compulsory attendance laws. Before this era, schools focused on reading, writing, and mathematics, generally only educated white children, and had mixed-aged classrooms.

1930s - The First Teacher Professional Development Workshops - kicks off the trend of professional development programs for teachers.

1940s - The First Remedial Education Programs - realizing that soldiers returning from WWII were behind in math and English proficiency, remedial programs are implemented to help them get caught up. These programs were gradually adapted at most public schools for students needing extra help in acquiring academic proficiency.

1965 - Elementary and Secondary Education Act - begins the modern testing era by enacting testing and accountability provisions. **Title I** of the act created a program to distribute extra funding to the school districts and schools with higher percentages of enrolled students from low-income families.

1975 - Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EHA) - funds special education programs to ensure that all children have free access to public school education.

1980s - Development of Guided Language Acquisition Instruction (GLAD) - these teaching strategies for teaching English would endure until the present day.

1990 - Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) - builds on the EHA to guarantee that students with physical and/or mental disabilities would be provided free appropriate education tailored to their individual needs.

1994 - Improving America's Schools Act - increases funding for bilingual and immigrant education, allows public charter schools, and incorporates education technology into classrooms.

1997 - Reauthorization of IDEA - among other things, the reauthorization calls for the implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (**PBIS**).

2002 - No Child Left Behind Act - among other things, implements broader standardized testing and penalizes schools that don't hit student achievement quotas, and augments **Title 1**.

2004 - Reauthorization and Modification of IDEA - schools are instructed to use the Response to Intervention (**RTI**) Framework to address academic performance. (**PBIS** is the equivalent to address behavioral issues.)

2009 - Race To The Top - gives grants to incentivize innovation and reforms with the goal of improving teaching and learning patterns.

2010 - Common Core Standards Initiative - details what students should know in English language arts and mathematics at the conclusion of each school grade.

2015 - Every Student Succeeds Act - replaces No Child Left Behind and allows more state control in judging school quality.

2024 - A century of tinkering around the edges of an obsolete public education model has proven to be an abject failure. The impact of these initiatives, acts, and programs on student outcomes have been marginal at best. Meanwhile, educators have experienced ever growing levels of stress and teacher attrition rates continue to grow. Regardless of how much money is spent or how well intentioned the effort, no amount of reform can correct a flawed education model. Switching to a learner-centered model has shown in both research and practice to achieve far better results for students, teachers, and society as a whole. **Rather than reform the "whole classroom instructional model," the time has come to replace it.**

