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The Every Student “Stalked” Act

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ‘ZEST’ AND ‘GRIT’?

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Under the guise of giving states and school districts more local control, Every Student Succeeds Act has instead greatly expanded the federal government’s role in the medicalization of education.

The federal government now requires non-academic standards to be incorporated into lessons; so in addition to teaching reading, math, and science, schools will attempt to change each child’s character traits. Schools will spend less time emphasizing academics and instead track a student’s progress in Socio-Emotional Learning. SEL emphasizes and judges such fuzzy topics as Optimistic Thinking, Social Awareness, Metacognition, Zest, Grit, Responsibility, and Managing Emotions. Most parents send their children to school to learn facts, not to have their personalities molded through socio-emotional engineering and psychological manipulation. Teachers are not therapists nor trained psychologists, yet they will be utilizing subjective and highly inaccurate techniques to evaluate, probe, and diagnose their students in an attempt to identify social, emotional and behavioral problems.

Once a child is tagged as “At Risk” or “At Risk of Being At Risk,” then they are eligible for a whole sys-

tem of special support and services paid for by Medicaid. The more children that the teachers classify, then the more money the school will receive. This built-in reward system encourages the teachers to label more students “at risk.” My school district in Indiana just opened their first school-based clinic in hopes of providing for the social, medical, and psychological needs of 30,000 students *and their families*. How much will that cost taxpayers? In Indiana, a bill allowing schools to provide universal mental health screenings to establish a baseline to rate the progress of each student was defeated. Never fear, Big Pharma will reintroduce the bill since they are eager to gain access to all the students!

The effect of implementing SEL becomes even more devastating when enforced through computer technology. Online curriculum tests are “adaptive,” which means that when the computer gets a “wrong” answer, the computer program can immediately re-train the

student with the “correct” answer. The U.S. Army has done considerable research using Artificial Intelligent Tutors and biometrics (which measure the posture, heart rate, respiration, pupil size, etc.) to increase a student’s “grit” and monitor the level of enthusiasm of recruits while learning online.

Combining adaptive curriculum with the gambling industry’s ability to exploit the addictive nature of computer games will result in a potent avenue for publishers to imbed a radical worldview in virtually every subject and

lesson. What child will be able to resist the relentless, real time reinforcement in a slick packaging? Adaptive testing goes far beyond sprinkling lessons with themes of environmentalism or tolerance. Adaptive testing is a powerful attempt to transform the next generation into community organizers who will champion radical left-wing causes. If you thought the reaction of college students to the outcome of the last election was appalling, wait for the next generation of students who have been exposed to twelve years of insidious SEL programming. 

