



## North Coast Tutoring Services

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## Do it for the Children!

With all the talk about funding for education, it makes us wonder if educators really understand the problem.

As we see it, the problem is ... children are failing in growing numbers. As an example, with all the promises and smoke, the Cleveland public schools still rank the lowest on the new score card. Further, this sad district is not even showing signs of improvement.

How can that be with the administrators and politicians posturing about the need to improve our schools?

All the talk centers around the way we fund the schools (unconstitutional), the need for new or refurbished schools, better salaries for teachers and janitors, longer school days, longer school years, and on and on.

Are these the things we really need for the

public schools?

We don't think so. We believe the most important single concern of our schools should be BASIC SKILLS. Our children MUST LEARN to READ, WRITE, ADD, SUBTRACT and THINK!

Educators love to announce broad and far-reaching edicts ... "All children will learn to read in first grade." Or, "Our Ohio Achievement Test scores will improve by 10%."

The reading edict is wonderful except the teachers do not know how to teach children to read. They never learned a METHOD to teach reading and the school district doesn't realize the problem.

As to better OAT scores, most schools now teach the test. No more teaching subjects, Just teach the test and the scores will improve. Is that the best thing for

these unfortunate children trying to get ahead and depending on the schools to give them a chance?

Wake up parents and teachers and educators. Start holding your schools to a higher standard - the standard of basic reading and math proficiency.

Without basic skills and the ability to think, these children will never be accepted in jobs, never be self-sufficient, and will always be a drag on our cities and towns.

Let's hire educators and civic leaders that will give us hope for the futures of so many children.

This is a very depressing topic. Please, please, will the schools start helping the children prepare for a big, cruel world?