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The Truth About The Collapsing Of The Public School System Ran By A Cartel

A former TV reporter and anchorman created quite a stir when he made a movie documentary about the deteriorating condition of the American educational system. Citing the state of New Jersey as his main example, he is pushing for drastic changes in the way that the schools are being run.

However, there is a growing group of people who argue that there is so much room for improvement in the country's educational system without increasing the budget. A Former TV reporter and current movie director for one, believes that the school system is much to blame for most of its woes. A former school superintendent that he interviewed for his movie believes that the widespread, persistent and institutionalized dishonesty in the preparation and implementation of the educational budget as the foremost problem. He also blames the profoundly deep-rooted, self-serving teacher's union as the one responsible for the country's twisted educational system.

The director chose New Jersey as the showcase of his argument because the state has the biggest educational spending in the country. However, in spite of its big budget, New Jersey still has an extremely bad dropout rate and a similarly dismal score on nationwide standardized tests.

Two proposed solutions are being pushed to counter the current school problems; the voucher system and chartered schools. They suggest tapping the services of privately -run chartered schools to provide free education. The proponents also suggest using vouchers that can be used to answer for the tuition, either in part or in whole depending on the budget and financial status of the beneficiaries.

The movie benefited from the director's experience as a former news anchor by using the crafts familiar to documentary reporting like talking heads, street side interviews, and remedial graphics. Melodramatic shots of a school parking lot overflowing with high-end cars and a school district president riding on a limo to attend a budget hearing gets the viewers' attention and ire, helping to convey the message that they want to impart.

Critics are quick to counter that the movie contradicts its basic claim that reforms can be made without changing the total amount of the budget. High performing elite urban schools have a high per-head budget. Only the cash strapped religious charter schools can afford to run in the current budget. Implementing the proposed solution of tapping chartered schools will only drive students to the church basements or rented spaces of religious schools. They also predict that the voucher system, with additional funds from the parents will only be able to enroll the students in more expensive private schools who only have the same test ratings as the traditional schools that they came from in the first place.

Teacher's Union and the tenure process are both being blamed for the shortage of qualified teachers. Teachers unions want to make sure that they have a steady job for life and protect its members from dismissal from service including the bad ones. However, teacher's union officials dispute the claim, arguing that tenure is meant to protect teachers from the whims and caprices of the school administration and politicians. They claim there are enough ways to remove poor teachers from the schools.

New Jersey school officials and other opponents of the theory argue that the documentary focused only on a few extreme examples and does not represent the true nature of the country's educational condition in general and the New Jersey educational system in particular. Sadly, the true state affairs could be somewhere in between and the real solution is too important to be left to movie directors and politicians to decide.

Nights and Weekends.com: [The Cartel](#) documentary. A film by [Bob Bowdon](#).

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