



Just the Facts

Bragging Rights

- ◆ Minnesota schools received a grade of A and ranked 2nd in the nation in Academic Achievement
- ◆ Minnesota received a grade of A and ranked 4th in the nation for the return on the investment made in education
- ◆ Minnesota received a grade of A and ranked 7th in the nation for Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness

The above is taken from Leaders and Laggards: A state-by-State Report Card on Educational Effectiveness, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Center for American Progress, 2007

Parenting

- ◆ Don't let babies under two-years-old watch screens. Studies show that TV may impair development and increase the likelihood of attention disorders later in life.
- ◆ Have older kids watch age-appropriate TV. Educational programs are best. Use videos to limit commercials.
- ◆ Keep TVs out of the bedroom. Research has found that kids with TVs in their bedrooms have more trouble in school and are more likely to engage in risky behaviors.

The above information is provided by the National Institute on MEDIA and the FAMILY™.

- ◆ Research suggests that parents can be most effective in the following ways: modeling good behavior, showing love, understanding child development, setting limits, being consistent, being involved in their child's life, adapting parenting to each child, avoiding harsh discipline and treating children with respect. – Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
- ◆ One of the most encouraging findings from research on Children's development is that good parenting can be learned. – Marty Rossmann, Professor Emeritus, Family Education, University of Minnesota

School Leaders

- ◆ Longevity of a superintendent has a positive effect on the average academic achievement of students in the district. – Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) meta-analysis research report, Tim Waters and Robert Marzano, *The School Administrator*, March 2007

Communications

- ◆ Public Agenda has learned, through 30 years of running public engagement projects, that people will “consider contradictory information and other points of view, if it's presented in the right way. If all views are getting a fair hearing, if both the pros and cons of a course of action are laid out honestly, if people feel they can be heard, then people are willing to listen. They may not change their minds, but they at least hear what others are saying and test their preconceptions.”—*Public Agenda Online*

Valuing Variables

The following information was included in A Public Agenda 2003 report on immigrants.

- ◆ 63 percent of immigrants say all public school classes should be taught in English rather than having children of immigrants take some courses in their native language
- ◆ 85 percent of immigrants say it's hard to get a good job or do well in this country without learning English.

- ◆ 81 percent of immigrants say, “A person has to work very hard in this country to succeed and that nobody gives you anything for free.”
- ◆ Only 18% of immigrants say they or any member of their family have ever received food stamps.

Quotes and Quotables

Leadership

- ◆ “Leadership is, at its core, a human enterprise.” – *Paul Houston, AASA executive director*
- ◆ “During Times of Challenge and change—which, in today’s world is essentially all the time—leadership can be the most valuable commodity any organization, company or community can have.” – *Don Knauss, Chairman and CEO, Clorox Company*
- ◆ “There are good men [people] everywhere. I just wish they had louder voices.” *Louis L’Amour, author*
- ◆ “We need not only the leadership to say we’re going to do it—but leadership to see it get done.” *Don Helmstetter, Minnesota Superintendent of the year 2007*
- ◆ Values are the gold that’s in each of us. They’re the real fortune of our organization.” – *Eric harvey and Alexander Lucia, 144 Ways to Walk the Talk.*
- ◆ **Values Principles** (taken from *Listen Up, Leader!* By David Cottrell, President and CEO of Cornerstone Leadership)
 - The principle of **Integrity** – Results improve in proportion to the level of trust earned by the leader.
 - The Principle of **Responsibility** – Results improve when leaders and their followers are held accountable for their actions
 - The Principle of **Commitment** – Results improve to the extent that the leader hires and develops talented people.
 - The Principle of **Vision** – Results improve when leaders establish a crystal-clear vision with a convincing reason to embrace the vision.

Parenthood

- ◆ “The only really effective way parents may influence their children is by example.” – *Andre Maurois*
- ◆ “What the best and wisest parent wants for the parent’s own child, that must be what the community wants for all its children. Any other ideal for our schools is narrow and unlovely; acted upon, it destroys our democracy.” – *Dewey*

Change

- ◆ “Obstacles should be regarded merely as obstacles, not as stopping-places.” – *Frederick William Nichol*
- ◆ “You think you understand the situation, but what you don’t understand is that the situation just changed.” – *Putnam Investments*

Communities

- ◆ “We are not getting very far, very fast because we persist in placing all the responsibility for teaching on the schools and on a short school day. The aspirations of every community—affluent to low income, homogenous to diverse—are limited by these habits. Without a broader view of learning, all American school-age children will be denied access to experiences that will help them be successful lifelong learners.” – *Time, Learning, and After school Task Force, Education Week January, 2007*

Perspectives

- ◆ Public Agenda has learned, through 30 years of running public engagement projects, that people will consider contradictory information and other points of view, if it's presented in the right way. If all views are getting a fair hearing, if both the pros and cons of a course of action are laid out honestly, if people feel they can be heard, then people are willing to listen. They may not change their minds, but they at least hear what others are saying and test their preconceptions. – *Public Agenda Online*
- ◆ “Feedback is the breakfast of champions.” – *Ken Blanchard and Spencer Johnson, The One Minute Manager*
- ◆ “It is good to be reminded that each of us has a different dream.” – *Crow*
- ◆ “Teachers not only teach, but they also learn.” – *Sauk*
- ◆ “When you have a talent of any kind, use it, take care of it, guard it.” – *Sauk*
- ◆ “There can never be peace between nations until it is first known that true peace is within the souls of men.” – *Oglala Sioux*

Red Flags

- ◆ An increased emphasis on high stakes testing was found to lead to a decrease in PE class time and recess in many schools. Coupled with an increase in the amount of screen time among children and youth, the AHA found that many children and youth were not getting the recommended 60 minutes or more of physical activity every day. In fact only 8% of elementary schools provided PE daily or allocated the recommended 150 minutes/week. – *Institute on Media and the Family*

Just for fun

- ◆ “There is a certain relief in change, even though it be from bad to worse; as I have found in traveling in a stagecoach, that it is often a comfort to shift one’s position and be bruised in a new place.” – *Washington Irving*
- ◆ “I have a microwave fireplace. You can lay down in front of the fire all night and it only takes you eight minutes.” – *Steven Wright*
- ◆ “They’re only puttin’ a nickel, but they want a dollar song.” – *Song title*



Here’s a one-question IQ Test to help you decide if you need a break...

A person who can not speak wants to buy a toothbrush. By imitating the action of brushing one’s teeth, he successfully expresses himself to the shopkeeper and the purchase is done.

Now, if there is a blind man who wishes to buy a pair of sunglasses, how should he express himself?

Think about it before looking at the answer at the bottom of this page.



These materials are provided by:
Minnesota Association of School Administrators
Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals
Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association

To request more information contact the above organizations or sprest@arkassoc.com

Answer: He opens his mouth and says. “I would like to buy a pair of sunglasses.” If you got this wrong you might need a day off to reflect on the way our minds work and how we process information about situations and people.