



YOUR LOCAL NEWS ANY WAY YOU WANT IT



888-297-9993

KILLUM "KILLUM KILLS 'EM"

PEST CONTROL

Welcome! Login | Signup

yourHoustonNews.com

- CLASSIFIEDS
- JOBS
- AUTOS
- HOMES
- FIND A BUSINESS
- PLACE AN AD

Home News Sports Living Opinion Photos Celebrations HerEntertainment Ad Services Obituaries Contact Us

Monday July 15, 2013

MAJOR STEKO VBS 2013

AGE 5 - GRADE 5 • ALL 5 CAMPUSES • FREE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION AT SECOND.ORG

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH • DR. ED YOUNG • SECOND.ORG

GOLSAN: Re-thinking Texas teaching, encouraging and rewarding excellence

80° Clear
More weather.

Advanced Search
Search the Archives

Primrose Schools® PRESENTS

National Open House Event

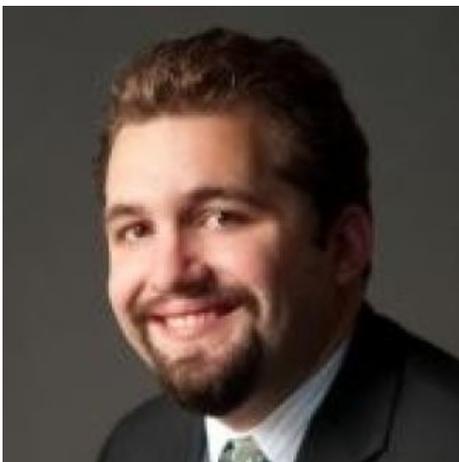
READ Every Day Lead a Better LIFE

Saturday, July 20th 10am - 2pm [Click here for Details](#)

Story Comments Image (1)

Print Font Size:

Recommend Tweet



JAMES GOLSAN

Advertisement

Posted: Thursday, July 11, 2013 2:30 pm

By James Golsan
Texas Public Policy Foundation

Recently, the National Council on Teacher Quality released a troubling report on teacher preparatory programs. The conclusion of the study—that many programs are not adequately preparing new educators to teach effectively—begs the question of whether the lengthy process prospective teachers go through in these colleges is always the best means to ensure that a teacher will be effective in the classroom.

The raw numbers of the NCTQ study are alarming. Only 4 of the 1,200 elementary and secondary education prep programs surveyed were given four out of four stars. In contrast, 163 of the programs were given no stars and a warning label for candidates to those schools, saying they were unlikely to get much return on their investment.

There are two sets of victims here. The first are would be educators who are investing in these inadequate programs and coming out ill-prepared to teach. The second are students who are not receiving the level of quality instruction needed to prepare them for college or the workforce.

What, then, are the options? To a certain extent, this problem must be addressed at the higher education level. Reforming the education colleges, and holding them accountable based on their outcomes, will be a strong step toward ensuring more of our teachers are well prepared when they enter the classroom for the first time.

A second option would be to go around the education colleges altogether. Thomas Fordham, in a report entitled "The Teachers We Need and How to Get More

LEARN MORE.

Gain new skills in computer office applications.

HCC
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
smart decision

southeast.hccs.edu

THE COTTAGES AT CLEAR LAKE

Alzheimer's & Memory Loss Care

NEW NORTH COTTAGE NOW OPEN!

281-724-5304



HOBBY LOBBY
40% off One Item at Regular Price

Shop and Save Now on Thousands of Items [Click Here!](#)

of Them: A Manifesto," called for widening the entry paths into the teaching profession. He suggested that lengthy certification processes with an emphasis on pedagogy would only serve to block otherwise highly qualified individuals from getting in front of our classrooms.

According to Fordham, "[A] better solution to the teacher quality problem is to simplify the entry and hiring process. Get rid of most hoops and hurdles. Instead of requiring a long list of courses and degrees, test future teachers for their knowledge and skills. Allow principals to hire the teachers they need."

In Texas, that means streamlining the certification process as much as possible and shortening the time it would take a qualified professional, say a former engineer interested in teaching calculus, in front of the classroom.

That said, getting high quality talent in front of the classroom is only the first step Texas should take toward strengthening our teaching pool. Encouraging excellence in the classroom is also important, as is rewarding it. Unfortunately, the manner in which we currently compensate our teachers—through a state mandated minimum salary schedule that rewards experience over excellence on an incremental, yearly basis—does neither of those things.

How can we expect school districts to reward their best teachers—potentially at the six figure level—if the existing system constrains them into paying all their employees more or less the same wage? Furthermore, what incentive do educators who have not yet honed their craft have to improve? Whether they perform well or poorly, the salary schedule system grants them a raise the following year.

We have many excellent teachers in Texas' public schools. Unfortunately, the report by NCTQ highlights the fact that nationwide, not just in Texas, we have a serious problem with educator preparation.

Problems in educator preparation lead to problems in the classroom, which is unfair to both the teachers who were short-changed in their learning experience and, in turn, unfair to students who are being short-changed in the classroom. The education colleges need improving, there is no doubt. But there are ways Texas could improve entry paths into the teaching profession, as well as improve the incentives toward becoming a great teacher. There are a lot of great teachers in this state. There's no reason we can't have more.

James Golsan is policy analyst for the Center for Center for Education Policy with the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, free-market research institute based in Austin. He may be reached at fgolsan@texaspolicy.com.



Free Delivery To Friendswood Residents!

Parkwood Pharmacy
"Caring for the Community"

We are Friendswood's **ONLY** Independent Pharmacy!
Member Friendswood Chamber of Commerce

\$4 Generic Program



HOBBY LOBBY
40% off One Item at Regular Price

Shop and Save Now on Thousands of Items [Click Here!](#)



50% Off Vinyl Banners
Extended through July 31!

Friendswood
1101 S. Friendswood Dr.
281-482-7500
Friendswood@copydr.com

Houston
3814 Bissonnet St.
713-661-9100
Houston@copydr.com

COPY DOCTOR
www.copydr.com

Recommend Tweet

Discuss Print

Posted in [Opinion](#) on *Thursday, July 11, 2013 2:30 pm.*

Similar Stories

- MATTHEWS: Energy policy is national security issue
- BRIGGS: The hidden crisis in American education
- SPRIGGS: Student loans and American skills: Different times, two different reactions
- American Forum: The surprising pro-environment business segment
- Weber: Immigration reform is not a race

Most Read

- Camp Strake to become next 'Market Street' — whispers of an Astros Triple-A team
- Camp Strake to become next 'Market Street' — whispers of an Astros Triple-A team
- Taylor: Howard is not the answer
- Costco opens in Sugar Land on Thursday, July 11
- CPD investigating death of homeless woman

Comments Facebook

Find It Here
SEARCH LOCAL BUSINESSES:

- Friendswood Apartments
- Friendswood Dining
- Friendswood Automotive
- Friendswood Doctors
- Friendswood Banks
- Friendswood Realtors
- Friendswood Dentists
- Friendswood Storage

[More Businesses](#)
[Claim Your Business Listing Today](#)



Justin's SEAFOOD
Louisiana Boiled Crawfish
607 S. Friendswood Dr., Suite 11
Friendswood, TX 77548
281-482-5100

Welcome to the discussion.

Screen Name or Email Or, use your linked account:

Password

[Forgot?](#)

[Need an account? Create one now.](#)



YourHoustonJobs.com

Courier TX-Houston Houston Communi	Drivers TX-Houston PIPELINE TRUCKI
Maintenance Position TX-Conroe PINE RIDGE APTS	Service & Repair Plumber TX-Champions CHAPARRAL P
CLASS A CDL OWNER O... TX-Houston PAUL TRANSPOR	Maintenance Position TX-Conroe US RUBBER CORF
CDL-A Drivers TX-Conroe	SALES PEOPLE TX-Willis Alpine Lumber Sales
Inside Multi Media Sales/... TX-Conroe Houston Community	Maintenance Position TX-Conroe PINE RIDGE APTS
Entry Level Position TX-Atascocita HEARING SOLU	

yourHoustonjobs.com

HOUSTON NEWS	LOCAL COMMUNITIES	MARKETPLACE	SERVICES	MEMBERSHIP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Blogs Photos Calendar Celebrations Obituaries Storm Center Entertainment HS Gridiron Business Pets Health Weather 101 Houston 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atascocita Observer Bay Area Citizen Bellaire Examiner Cleveland Advocate Conroe Courier Cypress Creek Mirror Dayton News Deer Park Broadcaster East Montgomery Observer Eastex Advocate Fort Bend Sun Friendswood Journal Humble Observer Kingwood Observer Lake Houston Observer Magnolia Potpourri Memorial Examiner Pasadena Citizen Pearland Journal River Oaks Examiner Spring Observer Sugar Land Sun The Rancher Tomball Potpourri West University Examiner Woodlands Villager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classifieds Jobs Homes Autos Business Directory Celebrations Obituaries Legals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help Advertising Services Place a Classified ad Subscription Services RSS Feeds Contact Us Site index Careers at HCN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign up Log in