

## **WAIT NO LONGER.**

**'SUPERMAN' CAN BE FOUND  
AT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL**

*Visit Your Child's Local Public School Teacher  
& Express Your Appreciation for a Job Well Done.*

Do not be misled by films that over-generalize. Most public school teachers do a wonderful job. They are bright, committed individuals who care deeply about children.

Public Schools are the "Cornerstone of Democracy." They serve all kids and they are better than most demographically comparable Charter Schools. That's not just what public school teachers say. That's what the studies say.

We have six million teachers in this country. Are some incompetent? You bet. If they are not willing or able to improve, they need to be removed through rigorous in-class evaluation. But in the City of Boston administrators disregarded state law and failed to even evaluate half of their teachers for two years. That's a fact.

Evaluation cannot be based on standardized tests scores alone, because neither kids nor adults are standardized. And because these exams are limited and provide only one partial, momentary measure of achievement.

We need curriculum that is broad, creative, and thoughtful, not narrowed to fit the monotonous regimen of test prep. This is not how we will remain competitive in a global economy. We need schools run by administrators who understand the importance of making classrooms exciting and creative, and who put "deep" learning first.

Yes, we need public schools that are as well-financed, resource-rich, and progressive as the schools to which the "reformers" send their own kids. Principals take note: Successful schools have cultures that encourage teachers to participate and innovate, and not merely toe the line.

We all need to take responsibility for an America that has grown ever more *unequal* and where student achievement follows class lines whether in Dorchester or Dover-Sherborn. Let's stop blaming teachers for the national scandal of poverty and for the "hidden injuries" it inflicts on kids. This isn't an excuse. This is a fact conveniently ignored by hedge fund managers, billionaire philanthropists, and corporate lobbying groups.

Pay another visit to the teachers in your local public school. You won't find super heroes in the phone booth.

You may well find one in your child's classroom.

*A personal statement/ Bill Schechter, public school teacher 1973-2008*