

One Size Doesn't Fit All

In today's public school system the one size fits all approach to educating our youth must be given a second look. Particularly as it stands for the young people growing up in urban America. Over 50% of Black boys attending public schools in poor neighborhoods drop out of high school, and end up being a part of the judicial system. They also tend to continue the cycle of poverty.

We can't continue to ask why so many of our young people are failing, at some point we must ask are we failing our youth. We must begin to develop non-traditional approaches to educating young people. We must realize that young people do not all learn the same, internalize information the same, nor do we all share the same experiences growing up. Black children have a unique history, culture and value system. Therefore, we must develop an approach that compliments the unique history, culture and values of Black and Hispanic children. Concerned educators must be willing to try different methods that engage the student and make them feel a sense of value, self worth, and inclusive in their own growth and development. The old model of the students sitting and just containing information, learning how to memorize data, is not enough. We must cater to the multiple intelligences of our young people. Some of them are visual and respond to arts and crafts. Education must become a grand event that engages each and every student and their unique abilities. Value based programs, that speak to a particular group of students culture should be incorporated in the school curriculum. It is not enough to be a good role model or mentor. Our children need life coaches who are hands on and make every student feel just as important as the other.

One Size Doesn't Fit All cont.

In any team sport each player of the team must feel valued in order to foster the maximum potential of the player, and it is the coaches duty to do so. The same applies to the classroom.

Students learn from role models, yet they live for role models who help them find meaning in their own lives.

In order for our children to be and feel that they are the future, they must feel loved today. They must feel that their existence is meaningful today.

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