



PA must recommit to teaching the Founding Principles

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The curricula we are using to educate our students about the Founding Principles incorporated in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution should be reformed now. This needs to be a top priority because in a recent poll, more young students liked socialism over capitalism.

This is a clear warning that our exceptional republic will fail unless we educate our young students about the Founding Principles. Our students must understand the advantages of our system which has produced the highest standard of freedom living for the highest number of people in the world. These young students should want to pass on these Founding Principles of freedom, liberty and opportunity to their children thus avoiding a failure of our beloved republic. Let's face it — socialism is an existential threat to our democratic republic. This threat is apolitical and addressing it is really common ground.

Most schools and colleges are not properly teaching these Founding Principles. They are doing an injustice to their students by not properly teaching patriotism, virtue, individual responsibility for one's actions, vigilance over all levels of government, equal opportunity and justice, limited government so taxes don't erode the fruits of their hard honest work, honoring the 1.2 million that gave their lives for our freedom, strong defense from enemies, consent of the governed, free enterprise and markets, separation of powers, natural and manmade laws.

Schools and colleges that don't teach these Founding Principles are in effect contributing in a major way to the waste of human capital in Pennsylvania.

So where do we start to address this threat? First — each of us needs to contact our Pennsylvania senator and representative to make it clear that Pennsylvania's school and college curricula must be reformed now to teach the Founding Principles enumerated above.

The General Assembly should task the Pennsylvania Department of Education to develop this curricula with major input from Declaration of Independence and Constitutional experts from any of the following: the Bill of Rights Institute, Leadership Institute, CATO Institute, Ashbrook Center, Mercatus Center, Foundation for Economic Education, or Young America's Foundation.

Second — hopefully the Pennsylvania USA Today Network will make this education problem an ongoing theme, consider it a worthy solution and support it with enthusiasm and resources. What could have a more long-term effect for our communities and state to thrive? Maybe the network

would even act as a watchdog over the Pennsylvania government to make sure this solution is implemented.

A good first start would be to send this guest opinion to its readers, the governor and the general assembly with its endorsement.