

report card comments for weak students pdf

report card comments for weak students pdf provide educators with a valuable resource to communicate student progress effectively, especially for those who face academic challenges. These comments serve as constructive feedback, highlighting areas of improvement while encouraging continued effort and growth. Utilizing a well-crafted report card comments for weak students pdf can assist teachers in delivering personalized and professional remarks that maintain a positive tone. This article explores the importance of these comments, offers examples, and discusses best practices for tailoring feedback to support student development. Additionally, it covers strategies for addressing academic weaknesses diplomatically and includes sample comment templates suitable for various subjects and grade levels. Educators seeking to improve communication with parents and guardians will find this guide particularly useful. The following sections will detail these aspects comprehensively.

- Understanding the Purpose of Report Card Comments for Weak Students
- Effective Strategies for Writing Constructive Comments
- Examples of Report Card Comments for Weak Students PDF
- Customizing Comments to Different Academic Subjects
- Using Technology and PDF Tools to Enhance Comment Delivery

Understanding the Purpose of Report Card Comments for Weak Students

Report card comments for weak students are essential communication tools that convey a student's current academic standing to parents, guardians, and other stakeholders. These comments are not merely a summary of grades but include qualitative feedback that explains the challenges faced by the student. The primary purpose is to provide insight into the student's learning difficulties, highlight areas needing improvement, and suggest actionable steps for progress. Such comments must maintain a balance between honesty and encouragement to motivate students rather than discourage them.

The Role of Constructive Feedback

Constructive feedback is central to report card comments for weak students pdf. It focuses on specific skills or behaviors that require improvement while recognizing effort and potential. This approach helps students and parents understand that weaknesses are areas for growth rather than fixed limitations. Effective comments avoid negative language and instead use supportive phrasing to foster a growth mindset.

Communicating with Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians rely on report card comments to gauge their child's academic health. Clear, well-structured comments help them identify where their child struggles and how they can support learning at home. Report card comments for weak students pdf often include suggestions for parental involvement, such as encouraging reading, practicing math skills, or establishing routines that support homework completion.

Effective Strategies for Writing Constructive Comments

Writing effective report card comments for weak students requires careful consideration of language, tone, and content. The goal is to provide honest assessments while maintaining student dignity and promoting a positive outlook on learning challenges.

Focus on Specific Areas of Improvement

General comments like "needs to improve" are less helpful than targeted feedback. Highlight particular subjects, skills, or behaviors that require attention. For example, "Struggles with multiplication tables" or "Needs to develop better organizational skills for assignments" provides clear information for parents and students.

Use Positive and Encouraging Language

The tone should be supportive and constructive. Words such as "working towards," "making progress," and "shows potential" help frame weaknesses as opportunities for growth. Avoid discouraging phrases that may demotivate the student.

Include Recommendations and Next Steps

Effective comments suggest concrete actions to improve academic performance. These can include attending extra help sessions, practicing specific skills at home, or utilizing school resources. This proactive guidance empowers students and parents to engage in improvement efforts.

Maintain Professionalism and Clarity

Comments should be clear, concise, and free of jargon. They must be professionally worded to maintain credibility and avoid misunderstandings. A well-organized report card comments for weak students pdf reflects careful thought and commitment to student success.

Examples of Report Card Comments for Weak Students

PDF

Providing examples of report card comments can assist educators in drafting personalized feedback efficiently. Below are sample comments commonly included in report card comments for weak students pdf files, categorized by academic focus.

General Academic Performance

- “Student is making steady progress but continues to require additional support in reading comprehension.”
- “Needs to dedicate more time to homework and class participation to improve understanding of key concepts.”
- “Demonstrates effort but struggles with retaining information; recommend regular review sessions.”

Mathematics

- “Has difficulty with basic math operations and would benefit from extra practice with foundational skills.”
- “Requires additional time to complete assignments and understanding of problem-solving techniques.”
- “Encouraged to use manipulatives and visual aids to better grasp abstract math concepts.”

Reading and Writing

- “Reading fluency is below grade level; consistent practice and reading aloud are recommended.”
- “Writing skills need improvement, particularly in sentence structure and spelling.”
- “Shows interest in stories but needs to work on comprehension and vocabulary development.”

Behavior and Participation

- “Needs to increase classroom participation and focus to enhance learning outcomes.”
- “Exhibits a positive attitude but requires reminders to stay on task during lessons.”
- “Benefit from developing stronger organizational habits to manage assignments effectively.”

Customizing Comments to Different Academic Subjects

Effective report card comments for weak students pdf are tailored to specific subjects to address unique challenges within each discipline. Customization ensures that the feedback is relevant and actionable for the student’s academic context.

Science and Social Studies

In science and social studies, comments should reflect understanding of concepts, participation in experiments or discussions, and retention of factual information. For example, “Struggles to apply scientific concepts during experiments but shows curiosity about the subject” provides a balanced view.

Foreign Languages

Language acquisition requires specific feedback on pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills. Comments may include, “Needs to practice vocabulary daily and engage more in class conversations to improve fluency.”

Physical Education and Arts

In physical education and arts, feedback focuses on participation, effort, and skill development. A comment like “Demonstrates enthusiasm but needs to improve coordination and follow instructions carefully” is appropriate for students facing challenges in these areas.

Using Technology and PDF Tools to Enhance Comment Delivery

Modern educational environments benefit from digital tools that streamline the creation and distribution of report card comments for weak students pdf. Utilizing PDF templates and software improves efficiency and consistency in reporting.

Advantages of PDF Format

PDF files ensure that comments are preserved in a fixed format, accessible across devices without alteration. This reliability makes PDFs ideal for official communications like report cards. They also allow easy integration of standardized comment banks and personalized notes.

Tools for Creating and Managing Comments

Teachers can employ various PDF editors and educational software to generate report card comments for weak students pdf. Features often include:

- Preloaded comment templates for quick insertion
- Customization options to tailor feedback
- Batch processing for multiple students
- Secure sharing and printing capabilities

Ensuring Accessibility and Confidentiality

When distributing report card comments for weak students pdf, it is critical to maintain student privacy and ensure that documents are accessible to all recipients. Password protection and compliance with educational privacy laws should be standard practice.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are report card comments for weak students PDF?

Report card comments for weak students PDF are downloadable and printable documents containing suggested remarks teachers can use to describe the academic performance and behavior of students who are struggling in certain subjects.

Where can I find free report card comments for weak students PDF?

You can find free report card comments for weak students PDF on educational websites, teacher resource platforms, and forums like Teachers Pay Teachers, Pinterest, or educational blogs that offer free downloadable materials.

How can I use report card comments for weak students PDF

effectively?

Use the comments as a guide to provide constructive, empathetic, and specific feedback tailored to each student's needs, ensuring the remarks encourage improvement and highlight areas for growth.

Are report card comments for weak students PDF customizable?

Yes, most PDFs provide sample comments that can be customized to fit the individual student's strengths, weaknesses, and specific circumstances to make feedback more personalized and meaningful.

What should I include in report card comments for weak students?

Comments should include observations of academic challenges, behavioral notes if relevant, efforts made, areas needing improvement, and suggestions for how the student can improve or receive additional support.

Can report card comments for weak students PDF help improve communication with parents?

Absolutely, well-crafted report card comments help clearly communicate a student's difficulties and progress, fostering better understanding and collaboration between teachers and parents.

Do report card comments for weak students PDF address both academic and behavioral issues?

Yes, many report card comment PDFs include sections or examples addressing both academic performance and behavioral aspects to provide a holistic view of the student's school experience.

How often should teachers update report card comments for weak students?

Teachers should update comments each grading period or report card cycle to reflect the student's current progress, challenges, and any changes in behavior or academic performance.

Are there any best practices for writing report card comments for weak students?

Best practices include being honest yet positive, avoiding negative language, focusing on specific areas of improvement, suggesting actionable steps, and recognizing any effort or progress made by the student.

Can report card comments for weak students PDFs be used for other student performance levels?

While these PDFs are tailored for weak students, many comments can be adapted for students with varying performance levels by modifying the tone and content to suit different academic achievements.

Additional Resources

1. *Effective Report Card Comments for Struggling Students*

This book offers a comprehensive guide to writing constructive and encouraging report card comments for students who are facing academic challenges. It includes practical examples and templates tailored to various subjects and grade levels. Educators will find strategies to communicate progress while motivating improvement.

2. *Report Card Remarks: Supportive Language for Weak Learners*

Focused on fostering positive communication, this resource provides educators with a range of comments that highlight students' efforts and areas for growth. The book emphasizes empathy and actionable feedback to help weak students feel supported. It also includes downloadable PDF templates for easy use.

3. *Writing Report Card Comments for Low-Performing Students*

Designed to assist teachers in addressing academic difficulties, this book covers techniques for crafting clear, honest, yet sensitive comments. It discusses how to balance critique with encouragement and includes sample comments across different subjects. The accompanying PDF examples simplify the commenting process.

4. *Constructive Feedback for Report Cards: Helping Struggling Students Excel*

This guide helps educators provide meaningful feedback that can inspire improvement among students who are underperforming. It explores methods to highlight strengths while addressing weaknesses diplomatically. The book also offers downloadable PDFs with comment suggestions and progress tracking.

5. *Positive Report Card Comments for Students Needing Improvement*

A practical handbook filled with positive, growth-oriented remarks for students who require extra support. It helps teachers avoid negative language and instead focus on potential and effort. The included PDFs offer ready-to-use comments and customizable templates for report cards.

6. *Report Card Comments and Strategies for Weak Academic Performance*

This resource delves into effective communication techniques for report cards, targeting students with weak academic records. It provides a variety of comment samples and tips on how to involve parents in supporting their child's learning. The book includes PDFs for quick reference and application.

7. *Grading and Reporting: Comments for Students with Academic Challenges*

A guide aimed at educators seeking to improve their report card comments for students facing learning difficulties. It discusses grading philosophies and how to reflect student progress accurately and compassionately. The book includes downloadable PDF comment banks organized by subject and grade.

8. *Teacher's Guide to Writing Report Card Comments for Low Achievers*

This book offers step-by-step advice for teachers on how to write effective, honest, and uplifting comments for students who struggle academically. It includes examples and phrases that focus on effort, improvement, and next steps. PDF resources provide easy-to-edit comment templates.

9. *Communicating Student Progress: Report Card Comments for Weak Students*

Focused on enhancing communication between teachers, students, and parents, this book presents strategies and sample comments designed for students with weak academic performance. It emphasizes clarity, positivity, and actionable feedback. The included PDFs help streamline the commenting process and ensure consistency.

[Report Card Comments For Weak Students Pdf](#)

Report Card Comments for Weak Students: A Guide for Educators

This ebook delves into the crucial topic of crafting effective report card comments for students who are struggling academically, exploring strategies to offer constructive feedback, motivate improvement, and foster a positive learning environment. It provides educators with practical tools and techniques to write comments that are both supportive and informative, ultimately promoting student success.

Ebook Title: Turning Challenges into Triumphs: A Practical Guide to Writing Effective Report Card Comments for Struggling Students

Contents:

Introduction: The importance of effective report card comments and their impact on student motivation and learning.

Chapter 1: Understanding the Student's Needs: Identifying learning gaps, challenges, and potential underlying issues contributing to weak academic performance.

Chapter 2: Crafting Constructive Feedback: Techniques for writing positive, specific, and actionable comments focusing on effort, progress, and areas for improvement. Avoiding negative or judgmental language.

Chapter 3: Focusing on Strengths and Growth: Highlighting existing strengths and celebrating small victories to build confidence and motivation. Strategies for emphasizing growth mindset.

Chapter 4: Collaborating with Parents/Guardians: Effective communication strategies for involving parents in supporting the student's academic progress. Providing clear and concise explanations of concerns and action plans.

Chapter 5: Utilizing Data and Assessment: Integrating assessment data into report card comments to provide concrete examples of student performance and areas needing attention.

Chapter 6: Setting Realistic Goals and Expectations: Creating attainable goals aligned with the student's individual learning pace and capabilities.

Chapter 7: Sample Report Card Comments: A comprehensive collection of example comments categorized by subject and specific challenges (e.g., lack of participation, poor organizational skills, difficulty with specific concepts).

Conclusion: Recap of key strategies and encouragement for educators to continuously refine their approach to supporting struggling students.

Detailed Outline Explanation:

Introduction: This section establishes the significance of effective report card comments, emphasizing their role in student motivation, parental engagement, and overall academic success. It sets the stage for the practical advice offered in the subsequent chapters.

Chapter 1: Understanding the Student's Needs: This chapter focuses on the importance of thorough assessment to understand the root causes of academic weakness, going beyond simply looking at grades to identify learning disabilities, emotional challenges, or lack of support.

Chapter 2: Crafting Constructive Feedback: This section details practical techniques for writing comments that are specific, actionable, and avoid demoralizing language. It emphasizes the use of positive framing and focuses on effort and progress rather than solely on grades.

Chapter 3: Focusing on Strengths and Growth: This chapter highlights the importance of a growth mindset and suggests strategies for emphasizing a student's strengths, even small ones, to build confidence and promote motivation. Celebrating incremental progress is key.

Chapter 4: Collaborating with Parents/Guardians: This chapter explores effective communication strategies for collaborating with parents, ensuring that they understand the student's challenges and are involved in supporting their learning. Clear and concise communication is crucial.

Chapter 5: Utilizing Data and Assessment: This section emphasizes the use of assessment data to provide concrete evidence to support report card comments. Examples of student work or specific test scores can illustrate areas needing improvement.

Chapter 6: Setting Realistic Goals and Expectations: This chapter stresses the importance of setting achievable goals that are tailored to the individual student's capabilities and learning style. Unrealistic expectations can be detrimental to motivation.

Chapter 7: Sample Report Card Comments: This chapter provides a valuable resource of ready-to-use report card comments categorized by subject and specific challenges, offering educators practical examples to adapt and personalize.

Conclusion: This section summarizes the key takeaways from the ebook, reinforcing the importance of the strategies discussed and encouraging ongoing professional development in supporting struggling learners.

Chapter 1: Understanding the Student's Needs (Expanded)

Understanding the "why" behind a student's weak performance is crucial before crafting effective report card comments. This requires a multi-faceted approach. Recent research in educational psychology highlights the significant role of factors beyond academic ability, such as:

Learning Disabilities: Students with undiagnosed or under-supported learning disabilities (e.g., dyslexia, ADHD) may struggle despite their best efforts. Identifying these needs is paramount. Teachers should refer to relevant IEPs or 504 plans and collaborate with special education professionals.

Socio-Emotional Factors: Stress, anxiety, trauma, or family issues can significantly impact a student's ability to learn. Recognizing these factors is vital, and teachers might need to connect with school counselors or social workers for support.

Lack of Engagement: Disengagement in the classroom can stem from various sources – lack of interest in the subject matter, bullying, or feeling overwhelmed by the workload. Identifying the reasons for disengagement requires observation and open communication.

Inadequate Study Habits: Poor organizational skills, ineffective study strategies, or lack of time management can significantly impact academic performance. Teachers can provide targeted interventions to improve these skills.

Limited Access to Resources: Students from low-income backgrounds may lack access to necessary resources like technology, quiet study spaces, or academic support at home. Addressing these inequities is crucial for fostering success.

Teachers can gather information through observation, informal assessments, discussions with the student, reviewing past work, and collaborating with parents/guardians. This holistic understanding allows for more informed and targeted interventions and more effective report card comments.

Chapter 2: Crafting Constructive Feedback (Expanded)

Constructive feedback is crucial for motivating improvement. It should be specific, positive, and action-oriented, avoiding general statements or negative judgments. Instead of saying "John needs to improve his work," try "John is showing improvement in his understanding of fractions, but could benefit from more practice with word problems. Let's work together on a strategy for this."

Focus on Effort and Progress: Praise effort and celebrate even small improvements. This reinforces a growth mindset. For example, "Maria consistently puts in great effort during class and is beginning to master long division. Keep up the hard work!"

Use Specific Examples: Instead of vague comments, cite specific examples of the student's work or behavior. "Sarah's recent science project demonstrated a solid understanding of the scientific method, but she could improve the clarity of her presentation."

Offer Actionable Suggestions: Provide concrete suggestions for improvement, focusing on strategies rather than simply stating deficiencies. "David could improve his essay writing by creating a detailed outline before starting to write. Let's work on this together."

Use Positive Language: Avoid negative or judgmental language. Focus on strengths and areas for growth. Reframe challenges positively. For example, instead of "Tom's handwriting is illegible," try "Tom is working on improving the neatness of his handwriting. Practicing cursive regularly will help."

Maintain Confidentiality: Keep comments professional and avoid sharing sensitive information about the student or their family.

Chapter 7: Sample Report Card Comments (Expanded)

(Examples will be extensively detailed in the full ebook. The following are brief samples to illustrate the concept.)

Mathematics:

Positive: "Jane consistently participates in class and demonstrates a strong understanding of basic algebraic concepts. She is a valuable contributor to group work."

Needs Improvement: "Mark is making progress in understanding multiplication facts. Additional practice with flashcards and online games would be beneficial."

Reading:

Positive: "Sarah is an enthusiastic reader and readily participates in class discussions. She is developing strong comprehension skills."

Needs Improvement: "David is struggling with fluency. Reading aloud more frequently, even short passages, will help build confidence and improve reading speed."

Science:

Positive: "Maria's lab reports are detailed and well-organized, demonstrating a thorough understanding of the scientific method."

Needs Improvement: "John needs to improve his data analysis skills. We can work together to develop effective strategies for interpreting data."

Social Studies:

Positive: "Tom actively participates in class discussions and demonstrates a strong understanding of historical events."

Needs Improvement: "Susan needs to improve her organization of notes and materials. A dedicated notebook and better note-taking strategies would be helpful."

(Note: The full ebook would include many more examples categorized by subject and specific learning challenges.)

SEO Keywords:

report card comments, weak students, struggling students, constructive feedback, educational assessment, teacher resources, parent-teacher communication, student motivation, academic support, learning disabilities, IEP, 504 plan, growth mindset, positive reinforcement, effective teaching strategies, report card writing, report card templates, student progress, improving student performance, special education, differentiated instruction, classroom management.

9 Unique FAQs:

1. How can I write report card comments that are both honest and encouraging? (Answer: Focus on specific examples of progress, effort, and areas for growth, using positive language and actionable suggestions.)
2. What should I do if a student consistently performs poorly despite my efforts? (Answer: Collaborate with parents, school counselors, and special education staff to identify potential underlying issues and develop a comprehensive support plan.)
3. How can I involve parents effectively in supporting their child's academic progress? (Answer: Maintain open communication, provide specific examples of the student's strengths and weaknesses, and suggest concrete ways parents can help at home.)
4. How can I use data from assessments to inform my report card comments? (Answer: Cite specific test scores, examples from student work, or observations to provide concrete evidence supporting your comments.)
5. What are some common pitfalls to avoid when writing report card comments? (Answer: Avoid vague language, negative judgments, and comparisons to other students. Focus on individual progress and effort.)
6. How can I adapt my report card comments to meet the needs of diverse learners? (Answer: Consider individual learning styles, cultural backgrounds, and potential learning disabilities when crafting comments.)
7. What resources are available to help me write effective report card comments? (Answer: Numerous websites, books, and professional development workshops offer guidance on writing effective report card comments.)
8. How can I ensure my report card comments are legally compliant? (Answer: Avoid making assumptions or sharing sensitive information. Maintain confidentiality and adhere to school policies.)
9. What is the best way to track student progress throughout the year to inform my report card comments? (Answer: Use a variety of assessment methods, including formative and summative assessments, observation, and student self-assessment.)

9 Related Articles:

1. Strategies for Motivating Underachieving Students: Explores various techniques to engage and motivate students who are not reaching their full potential.
2. Effective Parent-Teacher Communication Strategies: Discusses best practices for building strong relationships with parents and collaboratively supporting students.
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6. Differentiated Instruction for Diverse Learners: Explores strategies for adapting instruction to meet the individual needs of diverse students.
7. Using Data-Driven Instruction to Improve Student Outcomes: Focuses on using assessment data to inform instructional decisions and track student progress.
8. Effective Report Card Design and Implementation: Discusses best practices for designing and using report cards that accurately reflect student progress and provide valuable feedback.
9. The Role of Technology in Supporting Struggling Learners: Explores the use of educational technology to enhance learning and provide support for students who are struggling academically.

report card comments for weak students pdf: Teachers' Messages for Report Cards

Marie McDonald, 1971

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and, above all, effective.

report card comments for weak students pdf: Timesavers for Teachers, Book 2 Stevan Krajnc, 2009-03-23 Interactive CD included makes it possible for you to type information directly on the forms, save and/or print the file, modify information, and access it with ease.

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book. —From the Foreword by Richard E. Mayer, professor of psychology, University of California, Santa Barbara; coauthor, *e-Learning and the Science of Instruction*; and author, *Multimedia Learning*

report card comments for weak students pdf: Strategies That Work Stephanie Harvey, Anne Goudvis, 2017 In this new edition of their groundbreaking book *Strategies That Work*, Stephanie Harvey and Anne Goudvis share the work and thinking they've done since the second edition came out a decade ago and offer new perspectives on how to explicitly teach thinking strategies so that students become engaged, thoughtful, independent readers. Thirty new lessons and new and revised chapters shine a light on children's thinking, curiosity, and questions. Steph and Anne tackle close reading, close listening, text complexity, and critical thinking in a new chapter on building knowledge through thinking-intensive reading and learning. Other fully revised chapters focus on digital reading, strategies for integrating comprehension and technology, and comprehension across the curriculum. The new edition is organized around three sections: Part I provides readers with a solid introduction to reading comprehension instruction, including the principles that guide practice, suggestions for text selection, and a review of recent research that underlies comprehension instruction. Part II contains lessons to put these principles into practice for all areas of reading comprehension. Part III shows you how to integrate comprehension instruction across the curriculum and the school day, particularly in science and social studies. Updated bibliographies, including the popular Great Books for Teaching Content, are accessible online. Since the first publication of *Strategies That Work*, more than a million teachers have benefited from Steph and Anne's practical advice on creating classrooms that are incubators for deep thought. This third edition is a must-have resource for a generation of new teachers--and a welcome refresher for those with dog-eared copies of this timeless guide to teaching comprehension.

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report card comments for weak students pdf: Learning in the Fast Lane Suzy Pepper Rollins, 2014-04-10 Too often, students who fail a grade or a course receive remediation that ends up widening rather than closing achievement gaps. According to veteran classroom teacher and educational consultant Suzy Pepper Rollins, the true answer to supporting struggling students lies in acceleration. In *Learning in the Fast Lane*, she lays out a plan of action that teachers can use to immediately move underperforming students in the right direction and differentiate instruction for

all learners—even those who excel academically. This essential guide identifies eight high-impact, research-based instructional approaches that will help you * Make standards and learning goals explicit to students. * Increase students' vocabulary—a key to their academic success. * Build students' motivation and self-efficacy so that they become active, optimistic participants in class. * Provide rich, timely feedback that enables students to improve when it counts. * Address skill and knowledge gaps within the context of new learning. Students deserve no less than the most effective strategies available. These hands-on, ready-to-implement practices will enable you to provide all students with compelling, rigorous, and engaging learning experiences.

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problems one encounters in teaching classes varying in size, ability, and motivation. Wilbert McKeachie, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan, and coauthor, *McKeachie's Teaching Tips* This new edition of Dr. Nilson's book, with its completely updated material and several new topics, is an even more powerful collection of ideas and tools than the last. What a great resource, especially for beginning teachers but also for us veterans! L. Dee Fink, author, *Creating Significant Learning Experiences* This third edition of *Teaching at Its Best* is successful at weaving the latest research on teaching and learning into what was already a thorough exploration of each topic. New information on how we learn, how students develop, and innovations in instructional strategies complement the solid foundation established in the first two editions. Marilla D. Svinicki, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas, Austin, and coauthor, *McKeachie's Teaching Tips*

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Walberg, 2011 This book summarizes the major research findings that show how to substantially increase student achievement. This book draws on a number of investigators who have statistically synthesized many studies. A new education method showing superior results in 90% of the studies concerning it has more credibility than a method that shows results in only 60% of the cases. Research synthesis of many studies can also test the possibility that the new method works with a variety of students and circumstances. A robust method shown to work well at many grade levels with boys and girls in cities and suburbs is more desirable than one that only works well in special cases. Subsequent chapters weigh these considerations. Obviously policymakers and educators must also consider the costs and difficulties of implementing new policies and practices. Some innovations, however, are not only more effective but less costly. Teachers well prepared in their subject matter are usually a better investment than small classes, and, despite conventional beliefs, the Internet and other distance instruction delivery can be both more effective and cheaper than traditional classroom teaching. Thus, both old and new methods should be viewed in terms of efficacy, frugality, ethics, and other considerations. The remaining chapters begin with the most fundamental, well-established principles of academic learning within and outside schools. Because children spend approximately 92% of the total hours in the first 18 years of life outside school and under the responsibility of parents, the features of home conditions and parents' behaviors that

foster learning before and during the school years are described. In successive chapters, the book describes the most effective classroom practices and school, district, and state policies.

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fame and fortune. While their relationships, which are tinged by addiction, success, and pride, deepen over the decades, the men are held together by their devotion to the brilliant, enigmatic Jude, a man scarred by an unspeakable childhood trauma. A hymn to brotherly bonds and a masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century, Hanya Yanagihara's stunning novel is about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. Look for Hanya Yanagihara's latest bestselling novel, *To Paradise*.

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Persky, Brent A. Sandene, Janice M. Askew, 1998 The last several years have seen a growing resolve among educators and policymakers to assure the place of a solid arts education in U.S. schools. In 1997, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) conducted a national assessment in the arts at grade 8. The assessment included the areas of music, theater, and visual arts. For each of these arts areas, this Report Card describes the achievement of eighth graders within the general population and in various subgroups. Taken with the information provided about instructional and institutional variables, this report gives a context for evaluating the status of students' learning in the arts. The arts assessment was designed to measure the content specifications described in the arts framework for NAEP. The arts have a unique capacity to integrate intellect, emotions, and physical skills in the creation of meaning. Meaningful arts assessments need to be built around three arts processes: creating, performing, and responding. To capture these processes, the arts assessment exercises included authentic tasks that assessed students' knowledge and skills and constructed-response and multiple choice questions that explore students' abilities to describe, analyze, interpret, and evaluate works of art in written form. Data are reported in overall summaries for creating, performing, and responding in terms of student- and school-reported background variables. Student results for theater are discussed in terms of teacher-reported background variables as well. The major findings of the assessment are that a large percentage of grade 8 students attend schools in which music and visual arts were taught usually by specialists; most students attended schools in which instruction following district or state curricula was offered in music and visual arts, but not in theater or dance; and most visual arts and music instruction took place in school facilities that were dedicated to that subject. (JH)

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returns on their investments and generate gains in employment, job creation, and productivity. To examine what policies hold promise for improving student learning, the report reviews evidence from large-scale national learning assessments and findings from impact evaluations being conducted in the region. It identifies the following strategic priorities for improving learning outcomes in South Asia: (1) Make learning outcomes the central goal of education policy; (2) Invest in early childhood nutrition; (3) Improve teacher effectiveness and accountability; (4) Provide additional support to disadvantaged children in early grades; (5) Use financing effectively; (6) Leverage the contribution of the non-state sector; and (7) Build learning assessment systems. Each of these policy options will need to be integrated within a larger agenda of inclusive economic growth and governance reform to be truly effective.

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