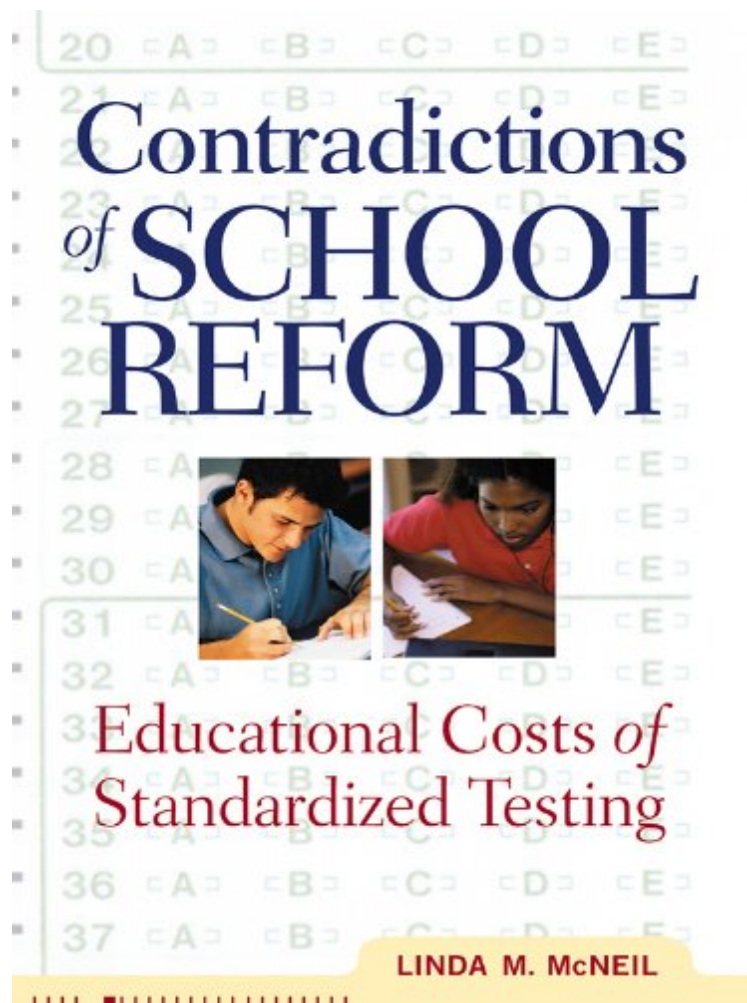


(Mobile pdf) Contradictions of School Reform: Educational Costs of Standardized Testing (Critical Social Thought)

Contradictions of School Reform: Educational Costs of Standardized Testing (Critical Social Thought)

Von Linda M. McNeil

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Von Linda M. McNeil : Contradictions of School Reform: Educational Costs of Standardized Testing (Critical Social Thought) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Contradictions of School Reform: Educational Costs of Standardized Testing (Critical Social Thought):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Another Houston ReaderVon Ein KundeThis is an outstanding book that has much to say to everyone interested in public education. First of all, McNeil presents an encouraging description of what can happen when teachers and students are given permission and opportunity to excel. The public schools observed by McNeil had little in terms of resources,

funds, or equipment, in spite of limited outside support. Yet, the schools had the magnet name and committed teachers and students who created havens of intellectual excitement, inquiry, probing, and rich learning. These classrooms were in stark contrast to the more typical classrooms described previously by McNeil in *Contradictions of Control*, and in opposition to the students' home schools where "success" meant merely passing the state test and graduating. McNeil offers compelling insights into classroom dynamics and why these schools were able to be so intellectually powerful based on concrete examples from many hours of classroom observation. The second major impact of *Contradictions of School Reform* is what it has to offer to the national discussion on school accountability. Her longitudinal studies on the same schools before and after the institution of various state and local reform measures provide clear evidence on the impact of these reforms and the costs to the students. It appears that tests, which originally had a useful purpose, have now been misapplied and misused to everyone's detriment. Furthermore, her evidence shows that the high stakes tests are creating a false sense of accountability in addition to being harmful to children's learning. Deborah Meier says on the cover of the book, "It's a story that everyone needs to read from start to finish." As a teacher and a mother, I heartily agree.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Houston Educator
 Von Ein Kunde
 Linda McNeil does a good job of providing a history of the Texas school system's move toward standardized testing. This book makes educators aware that teaching to the standardized test is only widening the gap between successful students and those students who need the most help. In Houston, like all urban school districts, the students who are impacted the most by teaching to the test are Hispanic and Black students. McNeil provides an outsider's perspective on what is required to educate the poor and minority youth of Houston, ie magnet schools. The three magnet schools that McNeil focuses on in her study attract the best minds in the inner city. These exemplary schools serve the good to top students who would have normally attended poor non-exemplary high schools. However McNeil fails to acknowledge that these same students would have succeeded in their home school. McNeil fails to address that the real challenge in Houston public schools is getting the average poor or mainority student to succeed academically. The three magnet schools in her study are not typical Houston magnet schools. These particular magnet schools in her study attract Anglo student scholars, receive financial support from the private business community, are validated by the anglo community. McNeil does not answer the issue as to why segregated magnet schools in black and hispanic areas do not have lines of anglo students waiting to ride the bus town to attend a black or hispanic neighborhood magnet school. Although hispanics make up at least 50% of the student population in Houston Independent School District (HISD), they are the least represented in the schools involved in the McNeil study. McNeil claims that her study group was involved in real teaching of students. She does not explain who's real education these students are learning. Magnet schools, in particular, Specialized Schools have provided a private school enviroment subsidized by public school dollars. She also does not address why certain groups are cleary not represented adequately in these priviledged schools. This book misleads the public to believe that these 3 magnet schools are reflective of all magnet schools in the HISD. When in reality, these three magnet schools are for the select students who would have succeeded in their home school. McNeil also leads the reader to believe that these three magnet school programs are not teaching traditional education. However she does not go far enough to explain these school's vision of critical pedagogy in the classrooms. There is still much work to be done in all school districts across the United States teaching poor and minority students. I recommend reading McNeil's book only for a historical analysis on the history and politics of standardized testing in Texas.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. *Contradictions of School Reform: Educational Costs of*
 Von Ein Kunde
 This book is excellent. It provides a very thought provoking argument against standardized testing. Mrs. McNeil's careful research shows the terrible cost that Texas students are paying as a result of standardized testing. This book needs to be read by every State Legislature, Teacher, Principal, Superintendent, School Board Member and Parent in Texas.

Kurzbeschreibung
 First published in 2000. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis, an informa company.

Pressestimmen
 "High-stakes state-mandated standardization is rapidly spreading throughout the United States. McNeil examines the widely emulated accountability system in Texas and concludes that it has adverse effects on teaching and learning, stifles democratic discourse, and perpetuates inequities for minority students."-Kappan June 2000
 "The complex narratives in this book are entertaining... McNeil exposes the sameness of education-manifested in standardized tests-as a pseudonym for inequality.."-American School Board Journal, August 2001
 "" *Contradictions of School Reform* tackles head-on the issue of race - in particular, the myth that test-based reform is a way to institute higher standards for students of color. . . The beauty of McNeil's book is that she combines a solid theoretical grounding with a close-up of what actually happened in Houston [Texas] schools. . . Next time someone starts spouting about the Texas educational miracle, give that person a copy of McNeil's book."-Barbara Miner in *Progressive*, August 2000
 "McNeil punctures the myth that test-driven curricula raise the floor of student achievement. She found that Houston's magnet schools and many other classrooms throughout the system compromised higher academic quality by adopting a system to identify bad teachers, a system that forced teachers to divorce their subject

knowledge from their classroom lessons.."-Education , July 13, 2001. "McNeil's detailed account clearly shows that the consequences of educational reform in Texas - particularly high stakes standardized testing - produced the unintended consequences of deskilling teachers and redefining the education in inner city schools to focus on standardized test taking. This dismantled authentic education and created classrooms in which teachers and students colluded to create lowered educational expectations.."-Teachers College Record', Vol. 104, 2001 Pressestimmen"High-stakes state-mandated standardization is rapidly spreading throughout the United States. McNeil examines the widely emulated accountability system in Texas and concludes that it has adverse effects on teaching and learning, stifles democratic discourse, and perpetuates inequities for minority students."-Kappan June 2000 "The complex narratives in this book are entertaining... McNeil exposes the sameness of education-manifested in standardized tests-as a pseudonym for inequality.."-American School Board Journal, August 2001 "" Contradictions of School Reform tackles head-on the issue of race - in particular, the myth that test-based reform is a way to institute higher standards for students of color. . . The beauty of McNeil's book is that she combines a solid theoretical grounding with a close-up of what actually happened in Houston [Texas] schools. . . Next time someone starts spouting about the Texas educational miracle, give that person a copy of McNeil's book."-Barbara Miner in" Progressive, August 2000 "McNeil punctures the myth that test-driven curricula raise the floor of student achievement. She found that Houston's magnet schools and many other classrooms throughout the system compromised higher academic quality by adopting a system to identify bad teachers, a system that forced teachers to divorce their subject knowledge from their classroom lessons.."- Education , July 13, 2001. "McNeil's detailed account clearly shows that the consequences of educational reform in Texas - particularly high stakes standardized testing - produced the unintended consequences of deskilling teachers and redefining the education in inner city schools to focus on standardized test taking. This dismantled authentic education and created classrooms in which teachers and students colluded to create lowered educational expectations.."-Teachers College Record', Vol. 104, 2001