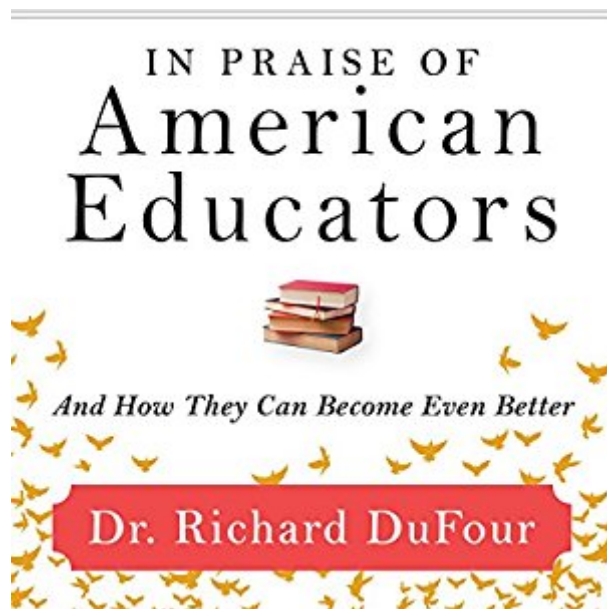


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# In Praise Of American Educators: And How They Can Become Even Better



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2016 Ippy Award - Gold Medal in Education (Commentary/Theory) Explore the state of education today. In this thought-provoking book, the author presents a compelling case for why contemporary American educators are the greatest generation in history. He carefully explains why current national reform policies have failed and presents specific steps policymakers, administrators, and teachers must take to transform American schools to meet student needs in the 21st century. This book: Critiques the commonly presented media messages about schooling in America Considers the evidence for why the present generation of American educators has accomplished more than previous generations Evaluates the assumptions driving policies set up to improve schooling Discovers the four essential pillars of the PLC (professional learning community) foundation Lays out the essential elements of the PLC process and common mistakes in implementing that process

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A passionate and honest work that captures the challenges America's educators face, celebrates the remarkable accomplishments of America's teachers and advocates next steps for improving the nation's schools. DuFour remains the leading voice in providing educators guidance and support in implementing practical steps to truly transform schools into learning communities that ensure student success. This is his best work yet and a must read for all interested in improving our nation's schools and celebrating the great work happening in classrooms across the country.

In Praise of American Educators is nothing short of a remarkable read that will capture the hearts and minds of anyone who cares about public schooling. The text starts with a research-based debunking of many of the most dangerous myths driving policy decisions in American schools. Readers learn the truth behind the impact that charters and vouchers have had on public school systems, the impact that poverty has had on student success and international rankings, and the impact that standardized testing has had on everyday instructional decisions. Then, In Praise shifts to a practical examination of the kinds of steps that educators can take to move forward even in the face of failed policy. Dr. DuFour details the core questions that should drive collaborative teams in schools, describes the characteristics of systematic inquiry around practice, and argues that intervening on behalf of struggling students is simply not optional. Readers will leave In Praise with a better sense for the challenges facing public schools. That matters in and of itself. But readers will also leave with a sense of hope that by working together in service of student learning, our schools really can help more of our students to succeed.

In Praise of American Educators: And How They Can Become Even Better has been added to my short but prestigious list of books that are must read for educators, but a should read for parents and other stakeholders in the American schools. I read this from two perspectives. As a former teacher and a retired administrator, the title alone immediately captured my attention; and having read and learned from previous works of Dr. DuFour I knew that this would be a no nonsense, gloves off, no excuses solidly researched accounting about the state of our schools and our success or failure to educate all children regardless of race, creed, or circumstance. I also read this as the mother of three African American boys who were educated in our public school systems. I remember confronting teachers who had very low expectations for my sons. I remember being told they didn't need trigonometry to graduate so they didn't need to stress themselves during their senior years. They were encouraged to apply to schools where the competition for admission wasn't as tough. I always thought if I had to fight this hard for my sons who were very good students and motivated and cooperative learners, who was out there fighting for the kids without parents who could be their voices? My sons are grown men now and their children are graduates or currently enrolled in public schools I am proud of our schools and I have nothing but awe and respect for our teachers and the collaboration and work they are doing to educate All Children. We have learned so much and I am confident we will continue to get better because as Rick stated, "It is being done!"

In his latest, and maybe most important book about the teaching profession, DuFour provides the

real facts about what is going on in schools today. He clearly celebrates the accomplishments weâ™ve made and provides clear and realistic solutions to the problems weâ™re still facing. Never one to stop until ALL STUDENTS ARE LEARNING AT HIGH LEVELS, DuFour provides the impetus for continuous improvement. This book, however, is written for more than just educators. Parents, students, business owners, politiciansâ™really all Americansâ™would benefit from the ideas and information DuFour makes clear. We may never achieve the ideal of all students learning at high levels, unless we have a common vision for our schools and our students.

This book is a breathe of fresh air in a world full of political hot air. Rick DuFour takes on all of the critics and cynics in this thoughtful and thought provoking masterpiece! You will not look at education and the reform movement the same after reading this book! Well done!

After years of being deaf to the negativity of most media outlets, it is refreshing to read a book that not only celebrates the hard work of educators across America but also challenges us to action. Rick DuFour has separated fact from fiction when it comes to the state of education today and most importantly debunked several of the half truths that politicians frequently cite and the media often accepts as fact. For example, DuFour does a masterful job at setting the record straight on charter schools, vouchers, and merit pay. These key initiatives have long been touted as the missing link for school improvement rather than shortcuts to what could really help students across America. DuFourâ™s book is helpful in its ability to give great insights on how every educator and system can improve. In almost every chapter, I found myself reflecting on several practices and procedures that can be enhanced or restructured in my school district. I sincerely hope that every educator has the opportunity to read this book and feel inspired by its central message.

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