

Letters to the Editor  
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Was delighted that Rupert Murdoch chose to talk about our failing public schools as the subject for his remarks to The Media Institute. But it is one thing to catalog the horrendous statistics of failure, and another to offer a solution. As the author of ten books on our failed education system and the growth of illiteracy among Americans, I have worked on ways to solve the problem. First and foremost, intensive, systematic phonics must be taught in the kindergartens and first grades of all American schools if we are to dramatically raise the literacy standard among our students in as short a time as possible. That is the only way to stop the damage being done by faulty sight-word programs that teach children to read English as if it were Chinese. If we don't make this simple initial reform in the primary grades, then nothing significant will change in the system. Mr. Murdoch said that he has a stake "in an American public that can read and write." We all have such a stake. But our problem is that the leaders of the progressive education establishment, with its Dewey-inspired agenda to dumb down America, cannot be dislodged from their positions of control, unless state legislators make it possible to remove them and replace them with conservative educators.

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