

# Envision | Issue Statement Paper

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## Issue and Topic

The Standards of Teachers

## Background and Problem

Every year, over 1.2 million students drop out of high school in the United States. 25% of high school freshmen fail to graduate. Some may ask, why is this the case? Many may blame a lack of determination and motivation in students, but the answer is more complex than that simple cause. Today, teachers are not motivated nor are they equipped to give students the proper foundation to build a better future for society. When teachers lack motivation, their students lack motivation as well. Additionally, students can tell when a teacher does not know the information they are teaching. Many students claim that they dropped out due to disengagement, something the teachers should be responsible for preventing. There is an entire generation of people that do not value learning nor the education that they have received. However, in order to fix this, it will take time and money.

- Population Affected: This problem affects all students and all educators across the country.
- Needs to Fulfill: These students need better teachers, and better education for teachers is the primary way this can happen.

## Solution

In order to solve this problem, we must start with education. In recent years, the requirements that employers have for teachers have lowered. In order to become a history teacher, for example, a teacher may not even have to major in history and a Master's degree within their area of expertise is rarely necessary. One solution to this problem is enforcing certain requirements, such as a minimum of a bachelor's degree and an adequate background in the subject, prior to employment. On top of that, the formulation of programs to ensure that teachers have enough experience before teaching full-time.

### **Key Partners and Resources Needed**

Educators must be involved for this solution to work. Educators are the ones that form the generations of tomorrow. In terms of resources, teachers will be required to hold a certification, stating that they went through our program, their state certifications, and district certifications based on the majority of students they'll be serving. They also need to spend nine months in a low-income school to gain experience serving with other students as they begin their careers.

### **Timeline**

We predict that it will take around 6-12 months to obtain funding (\$2-\$5 billion), perform research, and find locations to set up our programs as well as creating an online domain. In 2-3 years, most of our locations will be up and running. By the five-year mark, we hope to have locations nationwide.

### **Challenges and Workaround**

Lack of funding, the daunting task of convincing the Congress to help us financially, and the occasional ill-incented teacher may cause challenges for us as we progress. However, we can work around these challenges by allocating more funds, turning education into a non-partisan issue, and giving teachers more incentive to work productively.

### **Expected Impact**

By enabling students to receive a better education and reviving the motivation, students can have more access to well-paying jobs, more people can escape the cycle of poverty, and it could also benefit the economy.

### **Action Requested**

We request that the government allocates more funds to benefit the education system in the United States and form a stronger basis for education in our society.

### **Research Sources**

EduGuide.org

National Dropout Prevention Center/Network at Clemson University

DoSomething.org