

Carmelo Oszustowicz  
Professor Penner  
ENG 1121  
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### Helping U.S. Elementary School Students Deal With Socioemotional Difficulties

**Problem:** Many U.S. elementary school students are left to figure out how to socialize on their own, perhaps with some guidance from their teachers. This makes issues such as bullying and antisocial behavior common for many students who feel they can not fit in with their fellow peers, which can compound into bigger psychological issues as the grades pass by.

#### **Solutions:**

- Educators need universal guidelines to help identify and defuse conflicts between groups of students in order to help bolster friendlier, safer classroom environments.
- Teachers could be given weekly training courses by licensed psychologists to provide them with verified techniques to help deal with students' socioemotional problems.
- Implement extracurricular clubs as a part of students' weekly schedules in order to give students more opportunities to socialize with one-another and form social groups based on common interests without chopping into their afterschool time.

#### **What Has Already Been Done:**

- For combating bullying, resources are readily available online for educators to utilize, with sites such as [edutopia.org](http://edutopia.org) and [crisisprevention.com](http://crisisprevention.com) offering useful suggestions for schools to consider.
- Socialization techniques for younger children have been developed and tested, such as Sara Rimm-Kaufman's "Responsive Classroom technique," which utilizes practices from "well-known child-development theories of Jean Piaget and others" (Layton).

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29th September 2020

The White House  
Office of the President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Donald Trump,

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss a critical problem plaguing our nation for decades: the classroom environment of elementary schools. While efforts have been made on developing techniques to help educators guide students with socioemotional difficulties and combat bullying, I feel there are two simple solutions that could be utilized for impressive results:

First and foremost, educators should be mandated to attend at least one meeting per every two months to receive training/guidance from APA licensed psychologists that specialize in child psychology. These meetings can focus on updating educators across the country on effective techniques to help defuse peer-to-peer conflicts and reinforce strong socioemotional skills to empower struggling students. Increasing a level of self-awareness in students will not only improve their social lives and mental health, but also their output for standardized exams as well with increased incentive, initiative, and interconnectedness. With American students showing no significant improvement in embarrassing math and English scores compared to other countries, this will certainly help “Make America Great Again” in arguably one of the most important fields for a successful society.

Secondly, mandating extracurricular activities into school curriculums would be ideal. Giving students something to do beyond learning content from STEM fields or from Art and P.E. classes can help them both socially and creatively. Such a change can be legislated in a few years, giving educators some time to consider how they would implement the idea as either an additional period or as a replacement for a particular class in their weekly schedule. You can find a similar system in countries with more successful results in their education systems, such as Japan or China, where students must take part in clubs as part of their daily responsibilities.

Such changes however, require a slight readjustment to the national budget plan. Statistics show that last year, 57% of the national budget went into defense, whereas education only received a measly 5%. If I recall correctly, in recent years you have made the very wise decision to pull out American intervention in the Middle East. With less stress put onto national defense, I would suggest taking only 5% from the defense budget and reinvesting it into education. Comparing the difference such a change would make to defense versus the difference to education, it would be negligible; with double the budget, the Department of Education can most likely make these plans easily come to reality.

The sooner these changes can be implemented, the sooner they can be normalized, starting from elementary schools. Based on the success of these changes within a few years, the plan can either be scrapped or expanded to middle and then high schools for little to no consequences. All it would take is a few generations to see the immediate benefits of making arguably one of the greatest decisions in the history of American presidencies. Knowing your history Mr. Trump, I know that you are one of the few daring leaders who would be willing to make such a change happen.

Please take my suggestions into serious consideration. I thank you for your time and wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely Yours,

Carmelo Oszustowicz  
College Student

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