The American Education System
By: Adrianna Collie
Hello! My name is Adrianna Collie. I live in Liberty Lake, WA with my parents and two younger siblings. I am attending Spokane Valley Tech high school, and I am a senior. I like to write, draw, and analyze media such as movies and television shows in my free time! I am currently working on a Civil Action project in my Civics class in which I chose a problem affecting the nation and worked to not only propose a solution to it, but to take a certain amount of action steps. Entering this contest is one of those action steps. This is my first time creating a Zine, but regardless, I hope this Zine will be informative and a good read!
Initially, public education in America focused more on religion, family and morality instead of academics. It took a long time for America to adapt an education system; the Puritans were the first people to point out the need for public education. Thomas Jefferson brought it up after the American Revolution, but his ideas were ignored until the 1840s, when a few public schools began popping up in places that could afford them. Education crusaders Horace Mann and Henry Barnard called for free obligatory schooling for all children in the nation. By 1918, all American children were required to at least attend elementary school. In 1954, public school became open to children of all races.

“If education doesn't solve a problem, then it is a problem; if the educated do not solve problems, then they are the problems.”

- Ernest Agyemang Yeboah

Fact!: Education for girls was limited. For example, girls had the opportunity to learn how to read, but they didn't learn how to write.
What's wrong with the system?

Teacher treatment
- Teachers still receive low pay.
- Teachers, especially new ones, aren't given all of the tools they need to succeed.
- Teachers are expected to fulfill a large amount of responsibilities.

School safety
- Security measures need to be improved.
- More school-related incidents are happening than ever.
- Parents are becoming reluctant to send their children to school.

Standardized testing and exams
- Teachers have to "teach to the test", restricting the curriculum.
- Students experience an unhealthy amount of stress.
- Classes spend less time on subjects besides math and reading.
ESSA, or the Every Student Succeeds Act, was passed in December of 2015 by President Obama. It brought many changes to the American education system, including the following:

- All students in America are to be taught to high academic standards.
- Critical protections for high-need and disadvantaged students are upheld.
- Access to high-quality preschool is increased.
- Vital information is provided to educators, families, students, and communities via annual statewide assessments.
- An expectation that there will be accountability and action to effect positive change in our lowest-performing schools, where groups of students are not making progress, and where graduation rates are low over extended periods of time is maintained.

For more information about ESSA, visit http://www.everystudentsucceedsact.org

**Fact!** ESSA replaced the previous version of the law, the No Child Left Behind act (NCLB) due to its requirements becoming increasingly unworkable for schools and educators.
I am a student not a statistic
Education! (Basic)

RLITRMHAIBOOKR
THRNPOAHCRULER
MONELSTSTNSMATH
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IHESCLUNCHDIAT

SCIENCE
SCHOOL
RULER
PLAYGROUND
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ERASER
TEACHER
BOOK
ACTIVITY
LUNCH
STUDENT
TEST
MATH
HOMEWORK
CLASSROOM
WRITING
RECESS
LEARN

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HORACE MANN
STATISTICS
HENRY BARNARD
SAT
READING
NCLB
EDUCATION
MATHEMATICS
BIOLOGY
SBAC
STANDARDIZED
ESSA
GRADUATION
HISTORY
ACADEMICS

Play this puzzle online at: https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/927155/
Student Woes
Adrianna Collie

It is almost time for my exam,
Standardized testing is arriving fast.
I should feel ready, I should feel prepared,
It's all my teacher would teach.

I'm nervous beyond belief,
I'm not ready at all.
Cramming information,
Memorization,
Just doesn't work for a test like this.

We need something else,
And what we need isn't stress.
There has to be another way,
To put students to the test.

I want to learn a lot of things,
Not just math and reading.
Please let my teacher give us something,
That we will always remember,
Instead of something new to memorize,
Only to have to forget.
Attendance
Adrianna Collie

Today's another day of school,
For our precious little boy.
But oh, how things can change,
And spiral all the way down the hill.

Should we let him go?
He'd be safer at home, right?
I know how important education is,
But I don't want to lose my son.

School should be a safe place,
For children of all ages to learn.
But lately, less people feel protected,
And attendance might just drop,
To all new lows.

School should not be a place to fear
Students should not be afraid.
More security will protect them,
And secure the brilliant minds,
Of a new age.
Works Cited


"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

- W.B. Yeats