

# GIVE TEACHERS A BREAK: Cutting Red Tape to Unleash the Potential of America's Great Teachers

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## TOP TAKEAWAYS

### *End Mandatory Grade Inflation*

#### THE PROBLEM

- A [2024 survey](#) of 20,000 parents across the country revealed that parents care more about what their child's teacher is saying in conferences and other parent-teacher communications than they do about grades.
- Often, this is because of grade inflation, which only serves to devalue grades as a metric for measuring student success.
- [The Economist](#) found that despite rising high-school graduation rates from 2007 to 2022, test scores have fallen: "[H]igh schools are graduating thousands of students who, not long ago, might not have made the grade."

#### THE WAY FORWARD

When school districts baselessly nix traditional grading and replace it with unproven theories of equity, they turn classrooms into experiments. As equitable grading policies are implemented on a local level, they must be addressed on a state and local level.

- **End Equitable Grading:** Rather than the artificial equity of minimum grading floors, school districts should implement policies that equalize students by holding them to the same, transparent standard across classrooms.
- **Promote Transparency Through Standardized Testing:** Because standardized tests are not subject to the same variables as grades, they are excellent trackers of student performance. Districts and states should implement some level of standardized testing to accurately measure student performance. This will contextualize graduation rates and GPAs and ensure student achievement is tracked, measured, and improved upon as needed.
- **Crack Down on Absenteeism:** Students who are not in the classroom are the ones who struggle most with late work and mastery of content. Enforcing and implementing truancy laws at the state and local level can help ensure students attend school and do the work they need to do in order to pass without any additional equity-based measures artificially inflating their achievement. Additionally, implementing district policies that fail students after a certain number of absences per term can disincentivize absenteeism while also ensuring that grades retain their meaning.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.