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Against The School: An Argument Against Authoritarian Education

A primary issue of a large, political, and compulsory system of education is the amount of alienation which it causes. Students are alienated from teachers by means of the machinery which controls the functioning of the entire system. Those same teachers are alienated from the curriculum which they are teaching by faculty, bureaucracy, and politics. In this way, each aspect of the educational system is alienated from each other aspect until what is left is a mechanical and industrious system which destroys the autonomy of all parties involved in the system. In such an alienating system, the only forces which can act autonomously are money in the form of political movement. It seems that alienation is inseparable from large state operations, for this reason I argue that education must be done at a small scale at a local level; unfortunately due to the bureaucratic nature of all state programs it is clear that this can not be done at a state or federal level (**atl**).

Part of the way that this alienation developed was through the commodification of education. Education can not be treated as a public good because it can not be treated as a commodity. An often touted response to public education is one based on a free market in which parents are customers and schools are suppliers; this is an ineffective strategy because it ignores the root issue of alienation and will ultimately result, due to the concentrative nature of these things, in a new highly centralized system of bureaucracy