

To the Editor:

Re “[What Will Trump Do for Failing Public Schools?](#),” by Jessica Grose (Opinion, Nov. 14):

The health and success of our public schools are not a political issue; they’re a human rights issue.

I have been teaching and coaching in underperforming schools for years, mostly in economically challenged areas. My colleagues and I strive to incorporate each student’s unique strengths, language and culture into meaningfully teaching readers and writers who come to love literacy. We have learned that when we teach all students as if they are gifted, they excel.

A mandated one-size-fits-all program is never good enough for any student. A strong Department of Education, led by experienced and knowledgeable educators, is nonnegotiable for the promise of America to take hold.

We must fully commit to educating *all* students on how to question facts for accuracy, incorporate literacy and the arts into problem-solving real-world issues, and show moral courage in the face of injustice.

If we want our students to graduate from high school as informed, civic-minded young adults — more important now than ever — we must let them grapple with critical issues, including race, politics, poverty, etc. Keeping the promise of America alive must become a binding contract that makes living a life of opportunity and fulfillment possible for everyone.

Regie Routman
Seattle

The writer is the author of a dozen books for educators, most recently “The Heart-Centered Teacher: Restoring Hope, Joy, and Possibility in Uncertain Times.”

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