

Ripples Set the Waves in Motion

Everyone is always asking kids what they want to be when they grow up, and the answers always vary. However, they are also usually changing. I remember when I was little I wanted to be a veterinarian, and then a marine biologist, a lawyer, a police officer, a teacher, and finally a psychologist. I only began considering a job in a school setting within the last year. Ironically enough I suddenly find myself being the exact target of this prompt. I feel the way to recruit students to pursue a teaching career, is deeply intertwined with the skills necessary to be a high-quality teacher.

My experience with exceptional teachers started with the newest addition to our school's staff; a young English teacher fresh out of college. On the first day, I transferred out of a subpar English class into her Creative Writing class. I instantly had respect for her and the way she ran her class. She respected us and allowed us to make our decisions knowing that we would learn from the consequences. This exchange of respect made her class quickly jump to one of my favorites. This year I have been lucky to have several amazing teachers, and the thing they all have in common is they respect their students, they do not rule their classrooms with an iron fist. They allow room for me to mistakes, and when I make them, I quickly learn valuable lessons for myself. Thanks to these teachers, this year has been my favorite year, even with taking dual credit classes. They have made the classes so fun and easy to pay attention to. Having had poor teachers in the past, interacting with these teachers helped me to see the beauty in teaching, and no matter what career I ultimately decide upon, I want to apply that respect to those around me.

The decision to pursue a teaching track is something that will rest solely with the students. In my experience having high-quality teachers has sparked that interest, however, there are some issues with education jobs, that likely will need to be addressed before any sort of influx of potential teachers would be observed. Frontlineeducation.com conducted a survey involving school districts all over the country, and they discovered that all the districts had very similar issues. The first problem was that they lacked qualified candidates. The second was that salary and benefits were lacking compared to other careers, and lastly, there were fewer education school graduates. Out of those three issues, only one of them is within any person's control. That would be the salary and benefits. While I realize that is not a simple fix, if America wants to lessen the teacher shortage, which is problem number three and get high-quality teachers, which comes with getting more applicants, they will have to start at the root of the problem. There is a glaring issue with those statements, however. They create a constant loop.

While high-quality teachers are what intrigued me, my attention was ultimately captured by a similar job but one that I could make considerably more money at. Until the issue is traced back to the root and the circle is broken all we can do is hope that more and more high-quality teachers can set the ripples in motion.

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