

# Education – IOPA’s Number One Issue

Education is **THE** top IOPA issue because of 1) Inhouse Expertise; and 2) Global Importance.

- 1) IOPA CEO Merrifield and IOPA VP Phelps have several [books](#) and articles on different aspects of under-performing primary and secondary education **systems** (all schools, public and private), worldwide. IOPA Treasurer Nathan Gray has a PhD in Education Policy, and is a coauthor, with Merrifield, of [Unproductive School Choice Debates](#) (2023). VP Phelps just published [The Malfunction of US Education Policy](#) (2023). IOPA Development Director Milena Smolinskaya is a new education policy PhD. IOPA Senior Fellow and Director of [the IOPA Center for K-12 Captivity Studies](#) Martha Bradley-Dorsey has a PhD in Education Policy and a forthcoming book on school violence.
- 2) Regarding the 51 (50 states plus DC) US K-12 school systems, there have been [periodic re-affirmations](#) of the formal [1983 ‘Nation at Risk’ declaration](#). Since the world’s best K-12 systems are only slightly higher performing than the existential threat-level-bad US system, low-performing school systems (all schools, public and private) are a global threat to freedom, equity, and prosperity.

IOPA will extend its K-12 findings and insights, and add the realities of federal fiscal over-reach, to the longstanding need for transformational reform of Higher ED; a need recently highlighted and supercharged by illegal, ill-informed campus demonstrations and encampments.

[Center for K-12 Captivity Studies](#)

[Center for School Choice Expansion – State-by-State](#)

[Center for Higher ED Reform](#)

[Center for Education Accountability Enhancement](#)

[Center for Education Transition Gains Trap Strategies](#)