
Education: The Changing Landscape

By Mike Greer: *Blowing in the Wind* July 9, 2026

The educational landscape in California is undergoing a seismic shift that prioritizes centralized political control over academic excellence and transparent accountability.

Many parents and observers are left in a state of confusion as the state's institutions increasingly fail to provide teachers with the tools necessary to instruct students in fundamental skills like reading, writing, and math.

This systemic failure was recently highlighted in a national study where the state received an "F" on its report card for its inability to prepare educators for the classroom.

For the past fifteen years, state legislators have presided over an educational system marked by struggle, yet rather than course-correcting, leadership appears to be doubling down on failed policies.

A significant part of this shift involves a move to dismantle a Constitutional Office in favor of creating an "Educational Czar".

This newly created position is accountable only to the Governor, effectively stripping the Superintendent of Public Instruction of authority and moving policy-making into the less transparent halls of Sacramento.

By hiding behind a political appointee, the legislature can avoid direct accountability for the academic performance of students, many of whom have fallen below standards across the state's cities and counties.

Even the powerful California Teachers Association has voiced opposition to these changes, though their concerns may stem from a desire to protect their own influence and upcoming ballot measures rather than pure academic interest.

This political maneuvering occurs against a backdrop of complex school financing, where funds are frequently diverted to programs never intended to be supported by educational budgets.

Furthermore, ideological battles are further complicating the landscape. While the Supreme Court has addressed the participation of biological males in girls' sports and the privacy of locker rooms, California's leadership has stated it will continue to allow such participation, a move critics argue is destroying girls' sports in both high schools and colleges.

The perceived lack of common sense and the prioritization of political favors over academic truth have led to a predictable exodus.

School districts continue to lose students to charter schools, private institutions, and home-schooling as families seek environments focused on learning rather than politics.

Fixing this broken system requires a return to a direct line of accountability that connects individual schools to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, bypassing the multiple failed agencies that currently clutter the educational hierarchy.

Without such a change, the landscape will continue to shift to the detriment of California's children.