

Endorsement Blurbs for:

School System Reform:

Why and How is a Priceless Tale

By John Merrifield

Kent Grusendorf says include this (JM/author written) on the back cover:

Driven by multiple authoritative non-partisan and bipartisan '[Nation at Risk](#)' declarations, the federal government and all fifty states have been pursuing *school reform*; trying to productively change schools without tackling controversial *school system reform*. . . . Each attempt at change, without fundamental change, is a desperate attempt to deny/pretend that 'the system' isn't the problem; hope triumphing over experience, again or still. That's why we're stuck at '[Nation at Risk](#)' performance levels despite frenzied activity and massive funding growth. We keep adding gold to a "gold-plated disaster!"

Merrifield's thorough but accessible analysis of both what's wrong and what can be done, is a must read for economists and non-economists alike. Although the USA is his main focus of analysis, Merrifield's insights and recommendations for action are applicable and relevant for education policy thinkers across the world.

Deani Van Pelt, Former Director
Fraser Institute's Barbara Mitchell
Center for Improvement in Education

This is a thorough and deep analysis of school reform. Moreover, it injects a breadth of fresh air into the discussion with its careful attention to economic fundamentals – e.g., incentives, competition, and specialization – that is sorely lacking in many other treatments of school reform. An excellent and informative read.

John Garen,
Economics Professor
University of Kentucky

"lays out the big picture issue the best I have seen"

Hon. Rep Kent Grusendorf,
Texas Legislator, 1987-2006
Education Committee Chair,
2003-2006

"Comprehensive, rigorous, principled and spot-on analysis. You really cut through so much garbage to get at the essential points. I will be quoting from it extensively."

Lance Izumi,
Koret Senior Fellow and Senior Director of
Education Studies at the Pacific Research
Institute for Public Policy

"provides fresh insight that will challenge your core assumptions about how U.S. education systems should operate."

Aaron Garth Smith,
Education Policy Analyst,
Reason Foundation

- "Every budding education policy scholar should read this book to understand the fundamental problems with the U.S. education system."
- "Over five years ago, I was lucky enough to have Dr. Merrifield reveal the education system's defects to me as a student. Now, his book gives everyone else a chance to truly understand these inherent problems."
- "This book is a must-read for new education policy scholars. It is filled with important questions that are yearning to be answered by the scientific community."
- "Merrifield talks about the issues that other education academics tend to ignore."
- "Merrifield makes a vital point that almost all education academics overlook: A basic understanding of economics can fix our education system."
- "Merrifield talks about critical issues that other education academics are unaware of."

Corey DeAngelis,
School Choice Director,
Reason Foundation