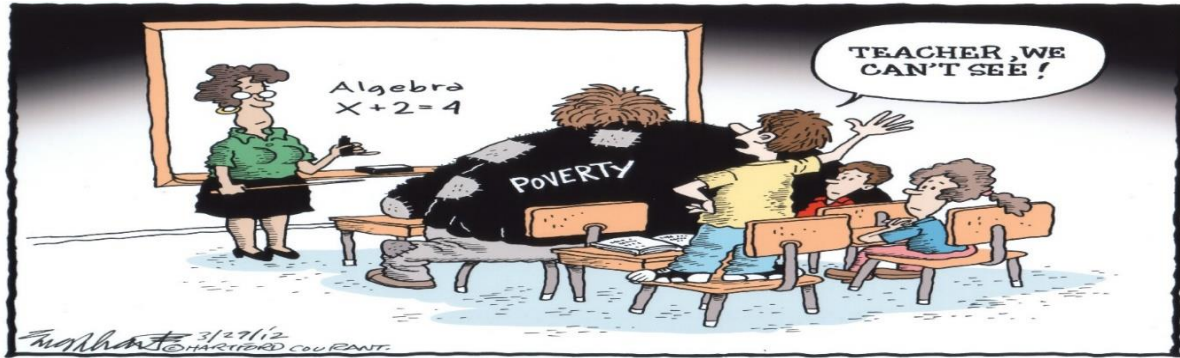


POVERTY IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

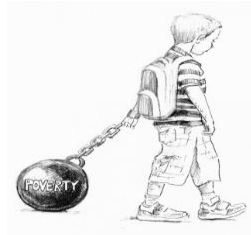


1. **Children living in poverty have a higher number of absenteeism or leave school all together because they are more likely to have to work or care for family members.**
2. **Dropout rates of 16 to 24-years-old students who come from low-income families are seven times more likely to drop out than those from families with higher incomes.**
3. **Children that live below the poverty line are 1.3 times more likely to have developmental delays or learning disabilities than those who do not live in poverty.**
4. **By the end of the 4th grade, African American, Hispanic and low-income students are already 2 years behind grade level. By the time they reach the 12th grade they are 4 years behind**
5. **40% of children living in poverty aren't prepared for primary schooling.**

[11 Facts About Education and Poverty in America | DoSomething.org](#)

“We cannot understand the relationship between poverty and education without understanding the biases and inequities experienced by people in poverty.”

— Paul Gorski



Interview with a first-generation college student:

When did you realize you were living in poverty?

M: Probably when I was eleven years old. I didn't have the same type of clothing as my peers or the latest gadgets. My dad was absent most of my life and my mom choice other things over us kids.

What hardships did you face?

M: I was hungry a lot of the time so I couldn't focus on schoolwork. I was made fun of a lot so I had little to no friends. I noticed that the teachers treated me differently almost like they didn't care.

How did growing up poor impact your life today?

M: I didn't have the same opportunities as the “rich” kids. For example, I was really good at track but because I was poor, I didn't have the best shoes. Even though I was better than other kids if their parents were big sponsors, they got picked to perform over me. I had so much potential, and no one took a chance on me. I get anxious when I feel like I'm running low on food even now as an adult.

Do you have any good memories of school? *Not really, except when the “No child left behind” law came into play. I remember getting sent home from school with a pup pack every weekend. It was a box of food to get us through while we were home. Also, if it wasn't for that law, I probably would have been held back several times. I struggled just to graduate High School, but I made it.*