

Higher standards are essential for the current school system. We need higher standards to give students the boost we need for college and our future careers. Higher standards give a new challenge to students that were previously unchallenged. They allow us to exceed our previous limits in what we were able to do. They allow us to think creatively, and put our ideas into practice.

As the world continually evolves, so does the need for more advanced technology. This new technology will provide job openings for intelligent people, but there will be many people vying for these positions. Those most qualified for the positions will be the people who worked hard to obtain the skills needed for their respective careers. The higher standards in our schools give us the slight edge needed in obtaining these skills. I think the book *Success for Teens* gives a great quote for how the slight edge affects us. "The foundation for the slight edge philosophy comes down to this: You can create any life you want, no matter how difficult it may seem, by understanding how small, positive steps make a difference over time. It's the things you do every day that don't even seem to matter... that *do* matter most." (The SUCCESS Foundation, 2008)

Higher standards give challenges to all students. However, the higher standards have affected me in a unique way. I am what is categorized as an intellectually gifted child. Up until 6<sup>th</sup> grade everything was simple for me. I was extremely depressed and bored with school. Then halfway through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the administration moved me up to a 7<sup>th</sup> grade math class. The older class had higher standards, and because it was already halfway through the year I had to learn everything already known by them. This was a great change for me. I was engaged in class, and the work I did wasn't just busywork. The next year I moved on to 8<sup>th</sup> grade math. The new standards that year gave everyone a challenge, but it was a welcomed one. This year, as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, I am able to take high school courses, and am loving the challenge.

Although I've benefited from the higher standards, I can see everyday how they can help my fellow classmates. My older friends think so too. One of them said to me, "People think kids nowadays are lazy. I think it is because they don't know they can do more. When the next generation has a challenge set before them then there will be surprise when the challenge is met." We can show this because the greatest people in history have become so by rising to the obstacles set before them.

There are many problems on Earth including pollution, global warming, and poverty. We need to be held to higher standards so we can find solutions to these problems and the many more that will arise. So to me, higher standards are what will help this generation fix the world's problems.