

“In *Why America’s Public Schools Are the Best Place for Kids*, Dave Brown is on a mission to inform the public about our schools. Making the point that every school in the nation is someone’s community school, Brown’s message is both research- and community-based. The book is enriched by Brown’s own experience teaching public school in four different states. Parents will applaud his list of eight attributes of a good school, in which he puts a child’s happiness and security and a teacher’s demonstration of caring about students at the top. Pointing out that democracy is at stake, Brown points a finger at those attacking public schools, and decries the hyperacademics that purport to prepare children for the Global Economy. At once explicit and affirmative, Brown offers an up-close view of why our schools matter—and why we should feel pretty good about them.”  
—**Susan Ohanian**, longtime teacher and prolific author

“Dave Brown presents a well-written and thoughtful analysis of one the greatest democratic institutions in America—our public schools. While masterfully examining the purpose of American public schooling, many of the negative myths about our public education system are confronted and dispelled in a straightforward, easily readable presentation of the facts. This is a must-read for everyone.”

—**Vincent A. Anfara, Jr., Ph.D.**, Department Head of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; The University of Tennessee

“Dave Brown passionately defends public schools and offers insights into why they work the way they do. You’ll be outraged by some of his statements (and may disagree with him about whom to vilify), but you’ll come away from this book knowing why public school advocates are so angry. And after reading this book, maybe you will have a renewed faith that public schools are good for most students—and can get better if we support them more wholeheartedly.”

—**Marge Scherer**, editor in chief, *Educational Leadership* magazine, ASCD

“Dave Brown pulls no punches as he confronts those poorly informed pundits and mistaken critics who continually jab at public education in America and at the core American values of creativity, individualism, and democracy that our system of public education for all embodies and preserves. Brown scores points with his readable analyses of historical events, figures, and trends that have shaped the attack on public education. Then, with thoroughly researched data and quotations from true experts in the field, he punches holes in the pseudo-evidence proffered by those seeking to control and privatize our public schools—business leaders and politicians whose profit motives outweigh their social conscience. Every concerned citizen, be they a parent of school-aged children or not, needs to read this book and then join Dr. Brown in the fight to save and strengthen public education.”

—**Mark Springer**, teacher and author of *Soundings: A Democratic, Student-Centered Education*

**DAVE F. BROWN**, Ed.D., is an educational researcher, consultant, and professor in the College of Education at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. He taught grades 4–8 in public schools for thirteen years in the Midwest and Virginia and is the coauthor of *What Every Middle School Teacher Should Know* and author of *Becoming a Successful Urban Teacher*.

BROWN

WHY AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE THE BEST PLACE FOR KIDS

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Reality vs. Negative Perceptions

Dave F. Brown



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