

*“Public education has served as a check on the power of parents.” — Goodlad*

## **Eight-Year Study**

During the period of 1933-1941 (hence the name Eight-Year Study), some 30 secondary schools were chosen to participate in a study of the pattern of courses taken by students in secondary school and student success in college. Colleges agreed to suspend their usual admission requirements. Each school organized its own programs based on known principles of learning and development, and schools focused their offerings around the general theme of “problems of living”.

The study found that there were no significant difference in scholastic achievement between students from experimental schools and students in schools offering programs in the traditional format. On the other hand, students from the 30 schools in the study did better in terms of most other aspects of college life. My experience in education supports these findings. While schooling is important, the myriad of requirements as to courses, grades, schedules and credentials impede rather than contribute to a quality education. I suggest you Google “Eight-Year Study”, that way you can decide for yourself.

*Editor: Don Glendenning*

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## **Excellence Award**

Nominations are now being accepted by Education 20/20 Inc. for the **Excellence in Education Award**. The award in the amount of \$2,500 will recognize a school or learning centre in Prince Edward Island that best demonstrates engagement in its day to day activities. Anyone may nominate a candidate and, the award is open to any school or learning center operating at the kindergarten to Grade 12 level; nominations close on May 25, 2015.

See our website at [www.education2020.ca](http://www.education2020.ca), for nomination papers, criteria, scoring grid, and transmission documents.

## **Assessment of basic skills**

Given the talk in recent weeks about the basic skills of our young people, I wondered if there were testing services available where, for a fee, a person could have their skills assessed and, if needed, obtain a copy of the results. So far, I found the following, and there may be others:

- Holland College Assessment Services; (902) 566-9636
- Workplace Learning PEI (902) 368-6498
- College Acadie IPE; 1 877 854-3010
- Joanne McCabe at [www.Joannemccabe.ca](http://www.Joannemccabe.ca); email: [jdmccabe@eastlink.ca](mailto:jdmccabe@eastlink.ca)