

Harriet Tubman's Other Railroad



Publisher: Paradigm Accelerated Curriculum

Author: Johnson, Ph.D., Ronald E.

Reviewed by: Deborah Deggs Cariker

Equipping African-Americans to Access Educational Choice Rather Than Remaining in Bondage to Underperforming Public Schools

This is no aimless regurgitation of statistics; Paradigm Accelerated Curriculum founder Dr. Ronald Johnson provides a real-life "how to" manual in his 155-page softcover *Harriet Tubman's Other Railroad: Equipping African-Americans to Access Educational Choice Rather than Remaining in Bondage to Underperforming Public Schools*. The stats Johnson offers are discouraging; no one would argue this, but Johnson's book offers solutions and, therefore, hope for undereducated children in public schools. Consider: "Reclamation is a viable option only from institutions outside the status quo. Present public school practices simply do not accommodate the concept of reclaiming underperforming Black students. The system prefers that students change rather than expecting the system to alter its programs." I might point out that this type of thinking is not exclusive to the way districts deal with Black students. All students are expected to conform and perform, or be left behind.

Johnson has experience with the solutions he offers; he's already implemented a Pull-Out Recovery Program in a public school setting, and seen it work. His book can help interested school officials institute a similar program; these programs are, by the way, values-based. "Knowledge without character does not propel a student from the status quo values of his urban neighborhood. Textbooks must be selected on their propensity to infuse positive life principles and moral character. Otherwise the alternative school you set up will be little better than other learning environments which fail to inspire youth to greatness."

Harriet Tubman's Other Railroad provides information on contract storefront schools, textbook dilemmas, the certainty of systemic opposition, tutorial programs, charter schools, home education, and more. His conclusion, in short, is that "African-American educational reformers should get on-board the educational choice railroad that is helping conduct millions of underserved youth to schools of choice. This book is designed to guide reformers who want to set up educational choices."

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Deborah Deggs Cariker

A Houston-area veteran journalist, Deborah Deggs Cariker is a ninth-year homeschooling mother of two, and Assistant Editor of the EHO Product Reviews Department. Cariker and fireman husband, Bill, make their home near Montgomery, Texas. .

