



**A Personal Note from Single Steps Strategies Founder  
Mary Grace Musuneggi**

## **School Days. School Days. Dear Old Golden Rule Days.**

Oh, how education has changed from the early 1900's when this tune was popular. When I was a child, I think my mother's biggest fear was having to spend homework time with me doing the "new" math. And as a parent, my concern was that they were just not teaching kids to spell, or do penmanship the way that they used to. And my son wasn't getting enough Language Arts. And whatever happened to the "times tables" and the drills we used to do?

As I speak to my clients today, the fears in the schools run the gamut of social & economic, as well as educational. But also things such as safety and security are major concerns. This was never a worry my mother had when she sent me off to school. And not a major concern for my son. But, with security guards and dogs in the hallway and metal detectors in the doorways, the face of education has changed dramatically. And then there are controversial programs, like the "No Child Left Behind Act", "School Vouchers", and "Home Schooling."

But as a former English and Language Arts teacher, I was happy to learn that the **S.A.T.**'s now require that students write a composition. I applaud this. But, believe it or not, I have heard students and parents speak against it. What a controversy...expecting our children to know how to write?? Whatever happened to the skills of letter-writing and knowledge of punctuation and grammar? I guess they have gone the way of e-mail and spell-check. And verbal skills have somehow gotten lost... "Ya know". I recently heard two newscasters in the same conversation describe a "picture" by pronouncing it "pitcher" and I drove by a "congradulations" sign on a local billboard; and a please "set down" sign, instead of "sit down" in a local restaurant. Bad grammar is everywhere. Maybe we should rethink the whole education process – or lack of it.

But in all of its forms, from the "little red schoolhouse" to the home school, to the "campus-like" atmosphere of the local high school, education is still the primary responsibility of parents to their children. The best thing you can do is give your child a good education, making them a good member of the society that makes the rules and laws you have to live by. And with a good education, they grow up, get a good job, buy a house, have a family of their own, and don't come back to live with you. Therefore protecting you from spending all of your retirement assets to take care of them.

**So giving them a good education is a gift to them and a blessing to you.**

And of course education is a continuous process. I remember graduating from college and thinking that I was glad I was "finished" with school. But I have chosen a career path that requires continuous education...CE programs, new services, new laws. But today in any career, advancement and maybe even basic employment, focuses on continuing education in the field of endeavor.

So for the month of April and into May, we are going to focus on education. Getting education. Educating our children. Financing an education.

We will learn how to make the best use of our computers. Learn, in business, how to network. Learn how to live an abundant life.

So make a commitment to yourself to learn something new everyday. Come visit our website and learn about our upcoming events. Come join our members and have access to information and articles submitted by our **Resource Providers**. And receive free services and gifts, or discounts on the services they provide.

Today is the first day of your journey to being the best that you can be. And your education and the education of your children is a giant step to an abundant and happy life.

The journey begins with a single step. Hope to see you along the way.

Mary Grace Musuneggi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Grace Musuneggi', written in a cursive style.

Founder and Executive Director

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