


The Future of Accountability

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A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a white cardigan over a dark top, sitting and reading a book to a young girl with braided hair, also wearing a white cardigan. They are in a classroom or library setting. In the background, there are other children sitting at a table, a globe on a stand, and various educational materials. The entire image has a blue color overlay. In the top right corner, there is a decorative graphic of several overlapping squares in shades of purple and white.

What Is Accountability?

Accountable (adj.):

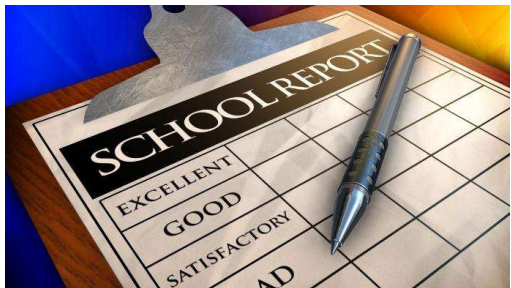
“subject to the **obligation** to **report, explain**, or **justify** something; responsible; **answerable**.”



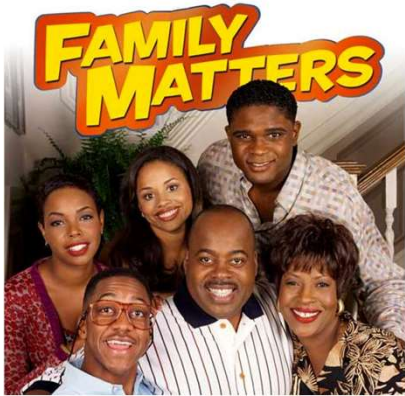
Key Question: Accountability for What and to Whom?



Financial



Academic



THE ACCOUNTABILITY MYTH

Michael Q. McShane, Ph.D.

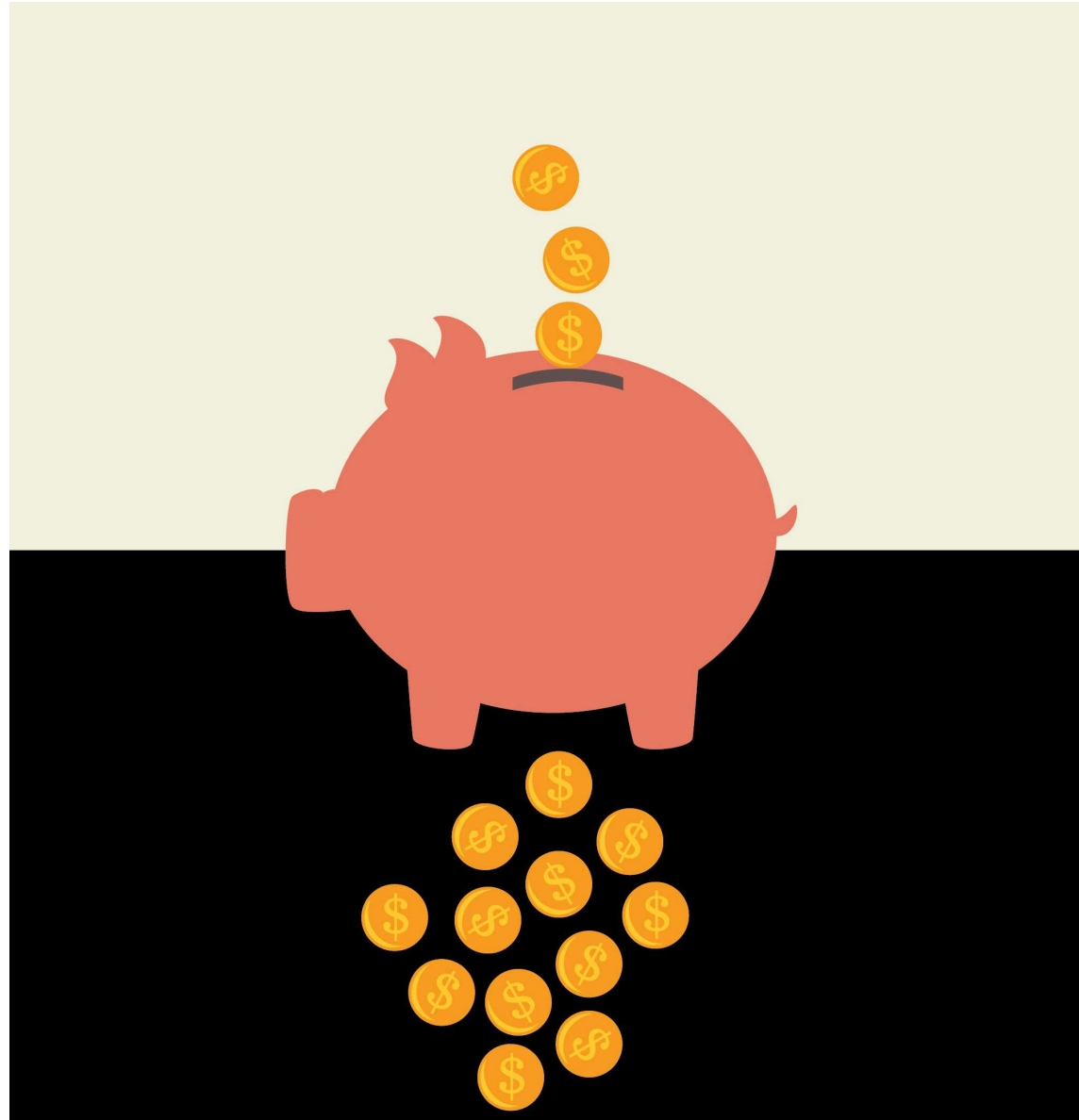


Traditional public school accountability:

The **three ways** that public schools talk
about accountability

Financial Accountability:

Schools should be responsible for how they use the money they are given and should be ready to account for what has been spent and how.



Democratic Accountability:

Since schools are funded by the community writ large, they should be able to account for how they are reflecting the wishes of that community. Are they teaching what the community believes should be taught? Are they organizing schools in ways that the community agrees to? Are they spending the community's money in ways that comport with the community's wishes?



Educational Accountability:

Schools should take responsibility for the quality of the education that the students in their charge receive. They should be able to demonstrate that students are mastering what they are supposed to be learning.

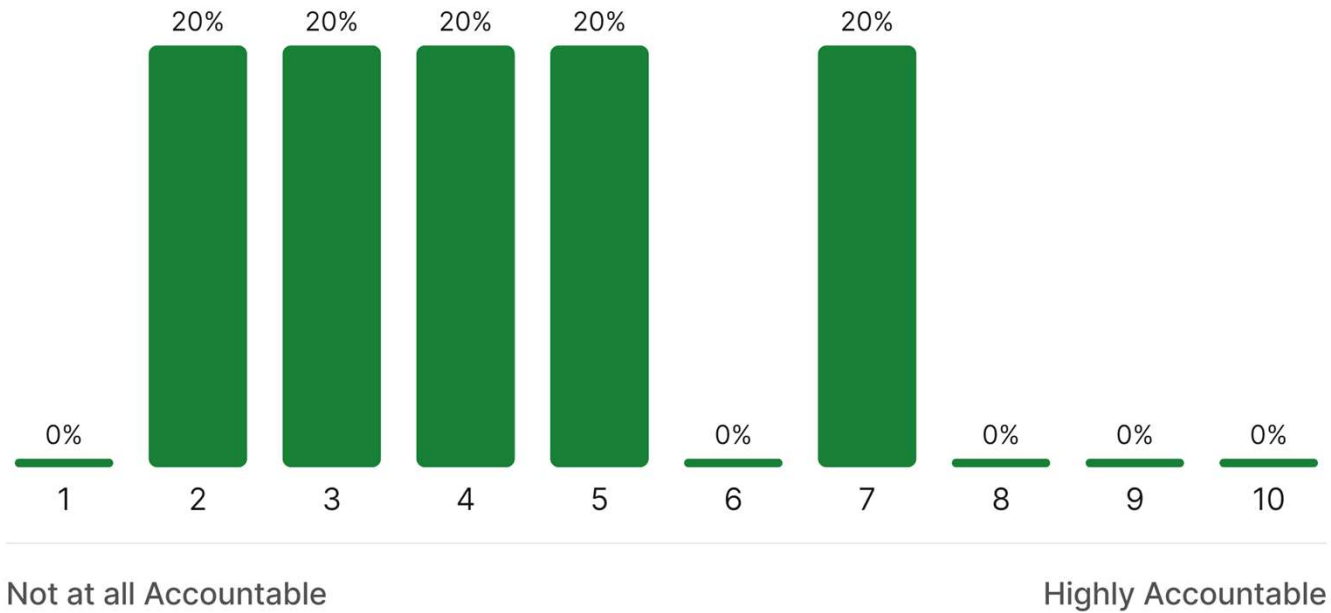




On a scale of 1-10, how accountable do you think traditional public schools are?

Rating Poll 5 votes 5 participants

Score: 4.2



A photograph of a woman and a young girl in a classroom. The woman is sitting and reading a book to the girl, who is standing next to her. In the background, other children are sitting at a table. The image has a blue tint and a decorative pattern of purple and white squares in the top right corner.

**How are existing
choice programs
accountable now?**

A photograph of a woman sitting on the floor reading a book to a group of children in a classroom. The scene is overlaid with a blue tint. In the top right corner, there is a decorative graphic of several purple and white squares of varying sizes. The text "What should the future of accountability look like?" is centered in white, bold font.

**What should the
future of
accountability
look like?**