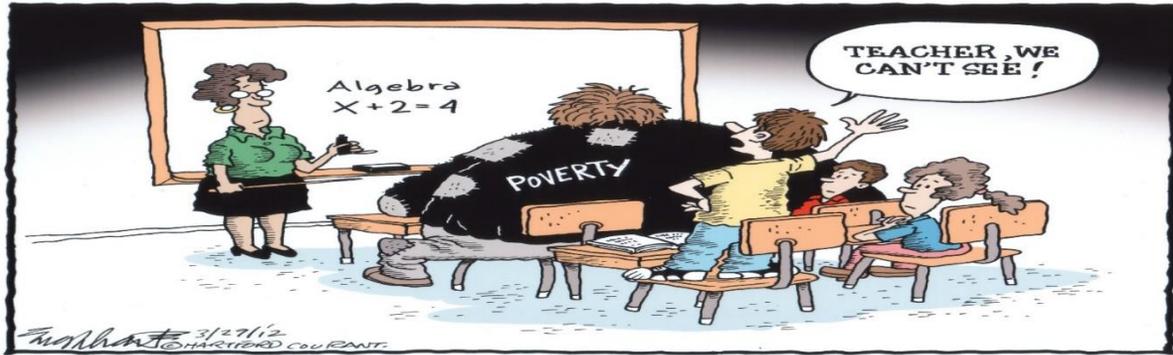


# POVERTY IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM



1. **Children living in poverty have a higher number of absenteeism or leave school all together because they are more likely to have to work or care for family members.**
2. **Dropout rates of 16 to 24-years-old students who come from low-income families are seven times more likely to drop out than those from families with higher incomes.**
3. **Children that live below the poverty line are 1.3 times more likely to have developmental delays or learning disabilities than those who do not live in poverty.**
4. **By the end of the 4th grade, African American, Hispanic and low-income students are already 2 years behind grade level. By the time they reach the 12th grade they are 4 years behind**
5. **40% of children living in poverty aren't prepared for primary schooling.**

[11 Facts About Education and Poverty in America | DoSomething.org](#)

“We cannot understand the relationship between poverty and education without understanding the biases and inequities experienced by people in poverty.”

— Paul Gorski



Interview with a first-generation college student:

**When did you realize you were living in poverty?**

*M: Probably when I was eleven years old. I didn't have the same type of clothing as my peers or the latest gadgets. My dad was absent most of my life and my mom chose other things over us kids.*

**What hardships did you face?**

*M: I was hungry a lot of the time so I couldn't focus on schoolwork. I was made fun of a lot so I had little to no friends. I noticed that the teachers treated me differently almost like they didn't care.*

**How did growing up poor impact your life today?**

*M: I didn't have the same opportunities as the "rich" kids. For example, I was really good at track but because I was poor, I didn't have the best shoes. Even though I was better than other kids if their parents were big sponsors, they got picked to perform over me. I had so much potential, and no one took a chance on me. I get anxious when I feel like I'm running low on food even now as an adult.*

**Do you have any good memories of school?** *Not really, except when the "No child left behind" law came into play. I remember getting sent home from school with a pup pack every weekend. It was a box of food to get us through while we were home. Also, if it wasn't for that law, I probably would have been held back several times. I struggled just to graduate High School, but I made it.*