

Equip parents with a trigger

Allow moms and dads to “take over”
persistently failing schools

A parent trigger law empowers parents
to have a say in their children’s education
by authorizing them to band together
to “take over” their children’s struggling schools



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The trigger provides options for parents to transform schools

Parents can pull the trigger if a majority of parents in a school sign a petition in support of the takeover. Once they've pulled the trigger, parents can choose from several reform options, possibly including converting the school into a charter school, firing the school administration or closing the school outright.

The trigger will create a new pipeline of empowered parent advocates

This mechanism will dramatically increase parental involvement in education by demanding that parental concerns are recognized in a way that has never happened before. Parents in states that have enacted a parent trigger policy acknowledge the right for parents to have more control over their child's educational fate.¹ For the first time, "unions" of parents may feel compelled to become engaged and take a stand for a better education for their children.² Parent trigger systems can lead to parents becoming more informed about the education system as a whole and can create a pipeline of parent-leaders leading the way to meaningful change.³

1 <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/24/education/24trigger.html?pagewanted=all>
2 <http://www.laweekly.com/2010-12-09/news/Californias-Parent-Trigger/>

3 <http://annenberginstitute.org/sites/default/files/product/209/files/HendersonRpt.pdf>

Even parents who don't pull the trigger will be endowed with real bargaining power

A parent trigger law in New York will provide parents for the first time with real bargaining power for change in their kids' schools. In cases where parents desire real changes that do not rise to the level of a school being "triggered", parents can still organize around this goal to use their parent trigger signatures as a credible threat to force the school and school district to acknowledge their demands for improving a school. This new kind of bargaining power has the ability to motivate in a way never before possible. A parent trigger law would provide parents of struggling schools to claim a real seat at the decision-making table for our public schools, requiring decisions to be made in the best interest of their kids.

The policy will reshape our public schools by empowering parents to improve their children's low-performing schools with the urgency that the situation demands by putting power in the hands of the people most affected by and invested in our public schooling.