

# Poll Reveals Unemployment Is Americans' Top Concern

A recent "Newsweek" Magazine Poll revealed that Americans see education as the second most important issue this election year. This concern ranks behind unemployment and before U.S. relations with the Soviet Union.

It's not a pretty sight when business reports show that employees can't read or write or the fact that an estimated 15 to 20 percent of all Americans lack the formal skills and knowledge to manage their own lives competently.

There are many who can't fill out job applications or read well enough to pass a driver's test.

Reports confirmed that many graduates can't read, write or compete well enough to function adequately in the workplace.

There have been many solutions introduced from various sectors of the community. Gov. Hunt has established a new basis for the state's educational process.

On an even more local level enrollment in Charlotte's elementary summer school program is so high this year that two additional schools had to be opened. This will bring the number of sites to 13.

Summer school classes in Charlotte were planned to accommodate 3,000

elementary students this year. However, almost 5,000 students showed up. Last year elementary enrollment was only 1,088.

According to the "Media Memo," a publication from the Communications Department of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools: "The huge increase in this year's elementary enrollment is due primarily to the school system's tougher promotion policy. Many students are required to go to summer school to be promoted to the next grade."

In Charlotte 957 junior high students registered for summer school. For senior high classes 1,518 signed up.

Government as well as businesses have committed much effort into improving the educational system. However, there are actions

citizens can take which can make a difference between poor and high quality education.

WITH TERESA SIMMONS



Teresa

The following are suggestions: serve as a school volunteer; tutor children; help out in school fund raising activities; work to raise funds for your local school library or donate books; work to get school bond issues passed; run for your local school board or get involved in school

board elections; write your local representative in Congress to muster support for education; be informed about education in your local community.

If you are a parent you can also spend time in your child's school and make education a high priority at home.

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