
Education for Children of the Poor
A Study of the Elementary and Secondary Education
Act of 1965

By Julie Roy Jeffrey. The ESEA signed into law by Lyndon B. Johnson was described by the president as "the first giant stride toward full educational opportunity for all of our school children." Over a decade later, in the face of conclusive evidence that Johnson's sanguine expectation was unfounded, Professor Jeffrey asks the crucial questions: Why did the aid to education provided as a part of the War on Poverty fail to produce the changes in the educational system and general society that had been so confidently predicted? Is it not true, after all, that, as the president claimed, "The answer to all our national problems comes down to one word: education"?

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