

# Submission to the National Electronic Database of the Bahamas:

## A Letter to th Minister of Education

**I**n response to the Ministry of Education’s public call for “papers and documents on education” for inclusion in the National Electronic Database, the author, Ralph J Massey, is submitting 20 papers and four videos in two volumes.

### Biography

For the record the author graduated *magna cum laude*/Phi Beta Kappa from Case University, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1952 and three years later earned a masters degree in Economics from the University of Chicago where he was a Harry A. Millis Fellow in Industrial Relations and a Research Associate in the Department of Economics.

A 36-year business career followed at Ford Motor, Kimberly-Clark, Johns Manville and Chemical Bank (now part of JPMorgan Chase) where he was seconded to the Bank of New Providence, Nassau, Bahamas in May 1984. He was a founding member of the Nassau Institute and an Economist for the Coalition for Education Reform.











The **Volume One** has ten print publications and four videos.

1. The Bahamian Youth: The Untapped Resource of 2005 and 2007 were published and distributed by the Coalition for Education Reform that represented the tourism industry...the hotel companies, their associations, the unions and the Nassau Tourism Development Board.

This private industry initiative did not trigger an industry/Ministry dialogue.

2. “Education Achievement: As, Bs...Gs & Us - Apr 2008” defines more clearly the unacceptable and high level of linguistic and numeric illiteracy experienced by public school leavers.

### Volume One

-  **Bahamian Youth Report #1 Jul 2005.pdf**  
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-  **Bahamian Youth- Untapped Resource #2 Sep 2007.pdf**  
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3. The last four articles are print versions of the four videos and deal with the fundamentals: Learning Gaps, Cognitive Skills, Culture and Teachers. They define education's basics and their meaning for the Bahamas...namely the likely results for the country if things remain unchanged.











**The Videos** may be viewed as follows:

1. Academic Failure & The Skills Gap - click on <http://www.vimeo.com/6629026> , or alternatively Google "[video.com](http://www.vimeo.com)", enter Ralph J Massey and select it from the four that are posted.
2. Knowledge, Facts & Cognitive Skills - click on <http://www.vimeo.com/7603213> , or Google "[video.com](http://www.vimeo.com)".
3. Culture Really Counts - click on <http://www.vimeo.com/8184750> or Google "[video.com](http://www.vimeo.com)".
4. Teachers Also Count - click on <http://www.vimeo.com/7354361> or Google "[video.com](http://www.vimeo.com)".

**The Volume Two** e-mail has ten publications listed as attachments.

1. The first two, "Learning Crisis April 2009" and "Re-examining education failure" INSIGHT Apr 2011", are updates of the issues first raised in July 2005.
2. The next four attachments...from "Going for the Gold" to the "Misleading & Nonsensical Statistic"...address specific relevant issues. For instance, the paper "Quality Teaching & Superman Doc" clearly states the growth potential for the individual and the nation in ending the scourge of illiteracy.
3. The last four..."UN Pathways to Human Development", "Superman & the Inconvenient Truths". "Detroit - The Urban Tragedy" and "U.S. Public Education Failure"...provide a wider context within which to consider the public school illiteracy problem in the Bahamas. Superman is, of course, a reference to the "Waiting for Superman" documentary.

### Volume Two

-  Learning Crisis Apr 09.pdf  
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-  Re-examining ed. failure-INSIGHT.pdf  
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-  Math Exam for Teachers.pdf  
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-  Quality Teaching & Superman Doc.pdf  
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-  Misleading & Nonsensical Statistic - Jun 2010.pdf 66K [View](#) [Download](#)
-  UN Pathways to Development.pdf  
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-  Superman Doc & Inconvenient Truths.pdf  
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-  U.S. Public Ed. Failure - Jan 2011.pages  
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I would like to meet with you to learn more about the National Electronic Database, its objectives and its acceptance standards.

These twenty papers are the output of seven years of writing on what is perhaps the most serious challenge to Bahamian employers and the nation...the skill level and work ethic of Bahamians seeking employment.

These twenty papers define the problem, the fundamentals and solutions. Furthermore, they clearly show that other nations face the same problem that is, in fact, enormous. It is enormous because existing institutions and cultures defend their interests and resist change.