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The greatest impact of education is when our best and brightest develop new technologies, improving productivity and bringing wealth into America. While it is, of course, important for every American to be literate, capable with mathematics, and aware of our history, it is vastly more important that we empower our Edisons, Einsteins, and Von Neumanns to make the greatest difference that they can. Measuring proficiency is useless towards this end- Einstein will be proficient in any subject in the worst school in the world. We need him to excel, and we won't know whether he did without measuring ability.

Metrics become targets, and our targets should not be achieving the bare minimum. We need greatness or we are doomed.