

# The Game of School: Why We All Play It, How it Hurts Kids, and What It Will Take to Change It (Jossey-Bass Education)

Robert L. Fried

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#### WHY PLAY THE HIGH STAKES GAME OF SCHOOL?

"In this must-read book, Robert Fried shows us that playing the game of school day after day is an intolerable waste of time, and while we are told it will lead to a decent paying job, it actually stupefies us for life's challenges—including being a decent citizen. He shows why we simply cannot keep doing this to our intellectually feisty youngsters, or to their teachers. Fried has it right in theory and detail, and he shows us, in his lively, poignant, often funny stories from the field, how teachers, parents, and, yes, kids, too, can begin to change this dreadful and unnecessary game."

—DEBORAH MEIER, founding principal and director, New Ventures, Mission Hill School

"This critically important book plumbs the depths of productive vs. unproductive learning and finds a seemingly normal, yet insidious, 'game' at its core. Our schools' failure to engage young minds is explained through vivid portraits of teachers who buck the trend. Fried is not a nihilist who sees only the dark side. Far from it. He has the courage to describe the Game of School such that readers can accept the metaphor as a tool without which educational reform will continue to be ineffectual."

—**SEYMOUR B. SARASON,** professor of psychology emeritus, Yale University and author of *And What Do You Mean by Learning?* 



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