

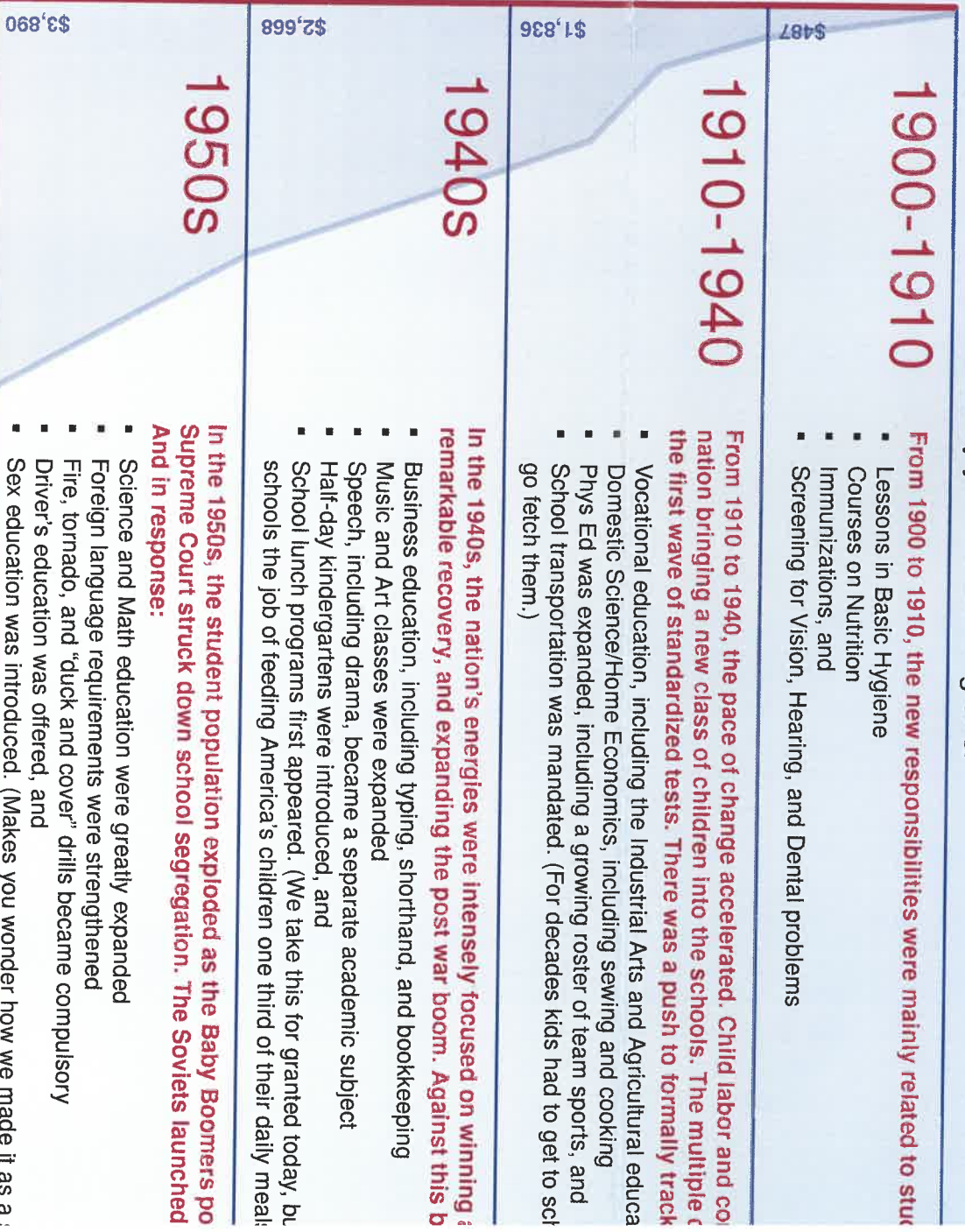
The Great Conversation Presents Look What We're Doing Schools

(Vollmer's List)

This is a story about America and America's public schools. Specifically, it's a story that has changed what we ask our schools to do **and** how much these changes have. The story answers the question, "Why don't these schools just teach the basics?" View the question, "Where does all the money go?" Once upon a time the mandate was to teach children. Not any more.

America's first schools appeared in the early 1640s. They were designed to teach young people — orphans and immigrants — arithmetic, while cultivating those values that served the emerging American democracy. During the 19th century, geography was added, but the curriculum remained focused for 150 years. The founders of these schools bore the major responsibility for raising a child.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, however, waves of immigration and changed attitudes toward many more children into the classroom. America's leaders saw public schools as the logical place to so according to the needs of the industrial age. It was at this time, that we began to shift non-academic disciplines accelerated ever since. Every year we add to the mountain of social, medical, and psychological disciplines to schools. Every year the cost climbs. Every year the burden grows.



Look at the rising cost of education. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education