

**For Immediate Release**  
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On Tuesday, RightWisconsin published a response to critics of our editorial, “Back to School,” which was posted on September 5. The response is called, “MPS Is Still Failing.”

Back to School: <https://rightwisconsin.com/2018/09/05/back-to-school>

MPS Is Still Failing: <https://rightwisconsin.com/2018/09/11/mps-is-still-failing>

### **An excerpt from MPS is Still Failing:**

“The new stadium is part of an \$11 million improvement in athletic facilities for Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), presumably so the little convicts can have the best facilities [before being sent to the penitentiary.](#)”

The line, with the [link to a Fox 6 story](#) that my critics neglect to mention, is clearly referring to the Deontay Long case. Long, for those of you that have forgotten, was a Milwaukee Washington basketball star convicted of armed robbery – a felony – but was still allowed to play by MPS in the state basketball tournament while he awaited sentencing. It’s a clear example of MPS’ screwed up priorities that they still haven’t addressed.

If MPS and my critics are upset with me for referencing that as an example of the screwed-up priorities of the school district, they need to be upset with every other media outlet that bothered to report the story, too.

I obviously did not intend the line to reference all students in MPS. I explained earlier in the editorial how I was an MPS graduate and I included the link to the story about Deontay Long. If I intended to “smear” (as a Journal Sentinel reporter wrote without ever contacting me) all MPS students, I wouldn’t have included the link, nor would I have mentioned my own educational background.

What’s been most disappointing about the reaction to my editorial is how my critics, willing to seize on a fake “gotcha” moment for their purposes, are

willing to ignore the fact that nearly 25,000 students are trapped in failing MPS schools. When are they going to show real concern for those students, as I have for the last 18 years of writing about public policy, instead of just drumming up fake outrage to try to silence any voice that calls for real educational reform in Milwaukee?

If you have any questions, Editor James Wigderson is available for media interviews on Wednesday, September 12. He can be reached at 262-422-7763, or by email at [jameswigderson@RightWisconsin.com](mailto:jameswigderson@RightWisconsin.com).

We'd also like to add our disappointment with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel which insisted on mischaracterizing the original editorial without providing any context for the excerpt they hyped as "smearing" MPS students. At no time did any reporter from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reach out to RightWisconsin before posting on social media their attacks. Nor did the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel mention that the phrase in question was linked to an online article about Deontay Long, either online or in their subsequent article on their website.

As a mark of their complete incompetence and indifference to professionalism, reporters Dan Bice and Annysa Johnson couldn't even spell Wigderson's name correctly until he brought it to the newspaper's attention.

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