

## Failing Students

Allisa Abraham

They are children we cannot teach –  
statistics that prevent AYP year after year.  
No amount of intervention will help.  
Been on the path of Does Not Meet Expectations  
so long, they never look to land anywhere else.  
Accustomed to less than 51percent. That's life

on the bubble.

We talk about them as if we know them –  
Bless his little heart. No home training to speak of.  
That's why he blurts out in class. Doesn't know  
any better. Won't do any good to write him up –  
they'll just send him back to class. So we tell them  
we want to help them be successful – whatever

that means.

We give them granola bars and Gatorade –  
out of our cabinets and desk drawers. Pencil  
and paper with every assignment. Of course,  
they aren't prepared. Second chances – retakes  
galore, a little help after school, that bump  
from 68 to 70. It's only two points in the scheme  
of things. We fix it, so they pass, but we never point

the way out.



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