

## The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids

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My daughter graduated from Walt Whitman in 2007, about the time I read this book.

It captured the attitude of not only public school kids, but private as well. They are determined to drive for success through the well-trod paths: high school grades, SAT scores, community service, college admissions essay advisors, etc. etc.

Their hearts are usually not in it. There is a kind of pervasive cynicism. Intellectual curiosity is not a hallmark of this generation - they don't have time for it. Now, half a generation after my first family has completed college, it is clear that what appeared to be false values, inappropriate goals, are exactly that.