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To the editor:

David Brooks maintains that Diane Ravitch's attack on current school reform strategies lies in her belief that "poverty is the real issue, not bad schools." In her May 31 Op-Ed article, "[Waiting for a School Miracle](#)," Ms. Ravitch asserted, "If every child arrived in school well-nourished, healthy and ready to learn, from a family with a stable home and a steady income, many of our educational problems would be solved."

But many children do not come from such environments. The question remains: What specifically can schools do to fill this critical gap? That's what I'd like to hear from her.

STEPHEN PRESKILL

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The writer is chairman of the Education Department at Wagner College.