

Ch 12 Education and School

- Very diverse
- No federal educational policy unlike other countries
- Secondary education is not related to careers
- Drop out rate

History of American Schools

- 1800s school was for wealthy liberal arts focus
- 1890 laws about mandatory attendance
- 1920s Americanize immigrants
- 1950s preparation for work and life, well rounded citizen
- 1970s Vietnam, civil rights
- 1980s achievement scores
- 1990s back to basics
- 2000s No Child Left Behind

Trend in the US Education

- Traditionalists vs. Progressives
 - o Traditionalists: argue that the purpose of education is to teach the basics
 - o Progressives: the purpose of education is to prepare students for life

Alternative forms of Education

- Magnet schools: school in bad area to attract parents that care about education

- Charter schools: still get public dollars
- Vouchers: government money that subsidizes private education
- Tech-prep Schools: students not going to college
- Open enrollment: can choose and school you want to go to
- Home Schooling: Christian parents in the 80s

No Child Left Behind Act

- 2001
- Schools rewarded or punished for test scores
- Local control increased
- Expanded options
- Specific teaching methods promoted

Middle Schools

- Junior highs vs. middle schools
- The “middle school” slump
 - o Larger than grade schools
 - o More impersonal
 - o Less time spent with one teacher
 - o Less time spent with close friends

Avoiding Problems in Middle School

- Performance goal structure: competition is the focus and getting the highest grade, not on the process of learning
- Task mastery structure: focus on the effort rather than the grade at the end, more likely to value learning and more likely to ask for help from their teachers

Characteristics of good schools

- size
- atmosphere conducive to learning
- school climate-quality of interaction between teachers and students
- holding high standards for kids
- teacher's behaviors
- Transition -6-3-3, 5-3-4
- 8-4 is the best
- the littlest time in between is better

Direct instruction(traditional) vs. constructivism

- teacher centered vs child centered
- constructivism
- partners in learning
- meaningful activities
- reciprocal teaching
- communities of learners
- traditional scores better on tests

Curriculum

- college preparatory
- college focused
- vocational