

Elizabeth Tsang  
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## Study Guide Chapter 3 – “Today’s Schools”

1. **Describe** the various roles of schools in today’s society. Include all **four** with details.

**Answer:** The various roles of schools in today’s society are *prosocial values, socialization of the young, social change, and equal educational opportunity*. Schools and **prosocial values** are currently being debated in the United States but many schools believe that it should be taught to help enable people from diverse backgrounds to live together peacefully. Prosocial values such as honesty, patriotism, fairness, and civility help reflect the public’s belief that schools can help play a key role in promoting the democratic ideal of equality. Schools and **socialization of the young** is a role that allows them to learn responsible citizenship and productive employment in our nation’s society. It helps reproduce the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes because they are fundamental to our society. Schools use **social change** to provide students with the knowledge and skills to help improve society. Using service learning as a social change can help students volunteer and participate actively in the political life of the society and reflect and study on the experience they had. It also brings young people to interact with the elderly, the sick, the poor, the homeless, and the acquaintances within the neighborhood and governmental issues. **Equal educational opportunity** is an important role because it allows children from diverse backgrounds with proper education to succeed and make their unique contributions in our society. Equal quality of education should not be deprived from people regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, language, or religion.

2. Based on your reading, how would you **describe** the “**culture of school**” in general and then tell what your school culture and school climate were like. (Pick one: elementary, middle, or high school to discuss). Use the terms from **pages 79-91** in your discussion – be sure to include the **three** main components.

**Answer:** A general idea of what “**culture of school**” is for the school itself to have its own beliefs, values and traditions, and ways of thinking and behaving from other schools. Each school emphasizes more focus on a certain criteria. For example, I went to the #1 specialized junior school in District 21 from Brooklyn, NY. My school’s culture focused on the ranking it got from having a good academic standing. Each school has the *three dimensions of schools* that are: *physical environment, formal practices, and traditions*. The **physical environment** of the school both reflects and helps create the school’s overall culture. My junior high school was very strict on cleaning things clean to keep up the reputation of being one of the top schools in the district. Even after I graduated from there, they keep building more things like a better yard facility for kids to use during gym, lunch, and before and after school hours. **Formal practices** in my junior high assigned students to individual classes after we take an specialized test to see which academy we belong in from hardest to easiest, the Academy for Scientific Research, the Academy for Business and Law, and the Academy for the Arts and Humanities. Our

school also arranged students to move from classroom to classroom for their lessons, also known as *departmentalization*. My school was not just about academics but they were very big on community service. My junior high school did not have a lot of land space to hold pep rallies or anything but we had our **traditions** where we hold Relay for Race in other schools for Breast Cancer Awareness and we also did a lot of service learning for Key Club. Being able to help out the school and our community with my friends and family made the volunteer work more enjoyable and helps motivate students to go to school.

3. **Describe the 7 characteristics that distinguish effective, successful schools as well as the measures of success.**

**Answer:** The characteristics of successful schools were described in different ways in several research projects. The following is a synthesis of those findings.

1. **Strong leadership:** Successful schools have strong leaders – individuals who value education and see themselves as educational leaders. They monitor the performance of school (teachers, staff, students, and etc.) in hope to make a more effective learning environment.
2. **High expectations:** Teachers at successful schools have high expectations of students. They also believe that no matter what circumstances their students are going through financially, mentally, or emotionally, they can communicate with the students through realistic yet high expectations.
3. **Emphasis on basic skills:** Teachers at successful schools emphasize student achievement in the basic skills of reading, writing, and mathematical computation.
4. **Orderly school environment:** The environments of successful schools are orderly, safe, and conducive to learning where discipline problems are at a minimal, and teachers can devote to greater amounts of time to teaching.
5. **Frequent, systematic evaluation of student learning:** The learning of students in successful schools is monitored closely and when something wrong goes on, it will be their first priority to resolve the situation.
6. **Sense of purpose:** Those who teach and those who learn at successful schools have a strong purpose where the school guides them by a vision of excellence.
7. **Collegiality and a sense of community:** Teachers, administrators, and staff at successful schools work well together to help dedicate and create an environment that promotes not only student learning but also their own professional growth and development.

4. **Describe many of the main factors that put students at risk of dropping out or falling below grade level academically (use pages 84-95).**

**Answer:** Some of the main factors that put students at risk of dropping out of school or falling below grade level academically are: *children and poverty, family stress, substance abuse, violence and crime, teen pregnancy, and suicide among children and youth.*

Children dealing with **poverty** may find it difficult for them to attend school because it's not their first priorities. They need to overcome health problems, hunger, and the difficulty of obtaining clothing and school supplies. They also need to provide documentation for school enrollment and that is often hard to find themselves guardians.

Lastly, they also might not be able to find transportation such as a direct bus route to school from where they live causing them unable to attend school. The structures of families who are dealing with financial problems, substance abuse, or violence can easily crumble from stress. It can be associated with health and emotional problems, causing them failure to achieve in school, and dropping out. Also, without parental supervision at home during after school hours, it can result their kids to engage in risk-taking or delinquent behaviors or to be victims of a crime. The abuse of drugs can affect children from attending school because of the addiction, the cause of overdosing, teen pregnancy, depression, suicide, accidents, criminal activity, and dropping out of school. Furthermore, **violence and crime** are perceived by gang membership that can provide kids to feel like they are a part of something. Even though gang-affiliated students are limited, it can still disrupt the learning process and create disorder in a school, and cause others to fear for their psychological safety. Due to their actions, it can result them into dropping out of school or even lower their grade-point average. **Teen pregnancy** are also frequent in most schools where teachers today expect to have at least one student who are or have been pregnant. Teen mothers tend to drop out of school because they are bullied from being pregnant and/or unable to handle the stress in-between taking care of a child and themselves. Lastly, **suicide among children and youth** is a dangerous reason to why kids drop out of school because they feel like they do not belong in the school by discrimination, bullying, and/or cyberbullying. When a child does not feel safe, it is important that a school does its best to reassure them, however, when that does not work out, it can affect them emotionally and physically.

5. List the immediate warning signs of violence then list the signs of potential violence. Write about how you will recognize these steps you might take if you noticed these signs.

**Answer:**

<b>Immediate Warning</b>	<b>Potential Violence</b>
Loss of temper on a daily basis	A history of violence or aggressive behavior
Frequent physical fighting	Serious drug or alcohol use
Significant vandalism or property damage	Gang membership or a strong desire to be in a gang
Increase in the use of drugs or alcohol	Access to or fascination with weapons, especially guns
Increase in risk-taking behavior	Threatening others regularly
Detailed plans to commit acts of violence	Trouble controlling feelings like anger
Announcing threats or plans for hurting others	Withdrawal from friends and usual activities
Enjoying hurting animals	Feeling reject or alone
Carrying a weapon	Having been a victim of bullying
	Poor school performance
	History of discipline problems or frequent run-ins with authority
	Feeling constantly disrespected
	Failing to acknowledge the feelings or rights of others.