

Issues Facing U.S. Education

Pre-K through 12 (K-12) & Educator Preparation (EP)

Rick Ginsberg, Ph.D.

University of Kansas



Several Common Issues

- Diversity
- Technology/Social Media
- The New Administration
- Assessments & Accountability
- Student Health, Mental Health & Related Issues
- Funding
- Teacher Shortages
- The Future

Diversity – K-12 Achievement Gap

High School Graduation Rates

- U.S. Average = 83%
- Asian Americans = 90%
- White = 88%
- Hispanic = 78%
- African American = 75%
- Native American = 72%



K-12 Achievement Gap - II

NAEP Reading and Math Scores – “At” or “Above Proficient” – 2015

MATH:

- 4th grade – Asian Am (65%), White (51%), Hispanic (26%), Af Am (19%)
- 8th grade - Asian Am (61%), White (43%), Hispanic (19%), Af Am (13%)

READING:

- 4th grade – Asian Am (57%), White (46%), Hispanic (21%), Af Am (18%)
- 8th grade - Asian Am (54%), White (44%), Hispanic (21%), Af Am (16%)

Achievement Gap - III

College Attendance (Young Adults, 25-29, highest college attainment: two or four year degree)

- Asian Am – 65.6%
- White = 44.9%
- African Am = 24.7%
- Hispanic = 17.9%
- Native Am = 16.9%

Achievement Gap IV: Implications for Those Preparing Teachers and Other Educators

Changing demographics of K-12 student population:

- First time in U.S. history that minorities make-up a majority of public school enrollment
- Need for preparing future workforce for changing reality in classrooms



Technology/Social Media

K-12 & EPs: Meet students' needs in a dynamic technology environment:

- We live in a Snapchat generation



Do you remember?



Or this?



Or this?



Or this?



Or this?



Or this?



But Now!!!



With the added function of:



Challenges for Educators

- Teacher/faculty competence
 - Keeping up!
 - Need for ongoing professional development
- Costs
 - Equipment and technical support
- Bandwidth



The New Administration



Implications for Educators



- Many unknowns
- K-12: More \$\$ for school choice options and privatization of public schools – charter schools and vouchers
- EPs: Push for de-regulation – greater flexibility for who prepares teachers and school leaders

Assessments & Accountability



Issues

K-12

- From Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) to “College and Career Readiness”
- From needing “Highly Qualified Teachers” to identifying “Ineffective Teachers”
- Some movement towards assessing non-cognitive variables

EPs:

- Greater accountability (make the case for teacher preparation)
- New professional accreditation, raised standards and rigor:
 - The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)

Anxiety, Poverty, Hunger (poor nutrition) LGBTQ Issues

K-12

- 13-20% of children in US experience a mental health disorder every year and the numbers are rising
 - Less than 1 in 5 get needed services
- 8 in 10 LGBTQ students experience harassment
 - 6 in 10 experience discrimination
- 1 in 5 children in U.S. (ages 6-19) has obesity

EPs:

- Must prepare teachers to deal with student pressure and anxiety, with rising concerns around mental health issues
- Growing students concerns around rising costs of higher education

Funding

- Funding of US Schools has been described as a tossed salad
 - No single model across states
 - A mixture of federal, state, local, and in some cases, private funds
- Funding has been tight in many states with recently proposed federal cutbacks -- teacher salaries have been stagnant



Teacher Shortages



Issues With Teacher Shortages

K-12:

- Major geographic and content area concerns
 - Urban and rural communities especially impacted
 - Key subjects including mathematics, sciences (STEM), Special Education, Foreign Languages

EPs:

- Pressure to prepare more teachers with many alternative deliverers entering the space
 - Equivalent pressure to improve the quality of teacher candidates, diversify the staffing, and raise the rigor of teacher preparation
- Enrollments in teacher education programs:
 - 2009-2010 – 725,518
 - 2013-2014 – 465,536

The Future??



For K-12 and EPs --What Will Be Expected!!

- Do More
- Do Better
- Don't Expect More Resources!!

