THE SEARCH FOR NEW EDUCATIONAL FORMS IN
THE UNITED STATES

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The Wiley-Blackwell Handbook of School Choice

A Handbook for Practitioners, Scholars, Policy-Makers, Journalists and Parents

Robert A. Fox
and
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Editors

Wiley Blackwell
The Handbook of School Choice

Fox, R. & Buchanan, K., Editors

SIX main forms of U.S. School Choice

- Private Schools
- Magnet Schools
- School Vouchers
- Home Schooling
- Charter Schools
- Virtual Schools
Handbook of School Choice

Fox, R. A. & Buchanan, N. K., Editors
Agenda

• Purpose of the Session

• Unique Features of US Public Education

• A Nation at Risk

• New Educational Forms

• Discussion
In America, Education is **NOT** a national responsibility

SLOVENIA CONSTITUTION – EDUCATION  
Art.57 - Education and schooling

CROATIA CONSTITUTION – EDUCATION  
Art. 66

BOZNIA HERTZGOVENIA – EDUCATION  
Article 4

ALBANIA – EDUCATION  
Article 57

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – EDUCATION  
???
The U.S. Education System is **VERY BIG**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>United States of America</th>
<th>Slovenia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>323,868,806</td>
<td>2,070,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School K-12</td>
<td>49,522,000</td>
<td>255,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Schools</td>
<td>98,328</td>
<td>680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Expenditure (per pupil)</td>
<td>$11,841</td>
<td>$8,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School Districts</td>
<td>13484</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School Teachers</td>
<td>~3,100,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
But Governments will be Governments

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The US Constitution does NOT provide a role for the Federal Government in Education. Further, the 10th Amendment of the Constitution says:

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

Nevertheless, on October 17, 1979, the US Congress established a Department of Education.

The 2017 Federal budget provides $69,400,000,000 for “discretionary funding for the Department of Education.”
Religion and American Public Education are Separate

US CONSTITUTION

Amendment I

   Establishment Clause

   Free Exercise Clause

BLAINE AMENDMENTS

38 States
U.S Teachers’ Unions

National Education Association
3.2 million members

Total Budget $ 2,526,096,440
Politics & Lobbying $ 238,948,778

Service Employees International Union
2.1 million members.

Total Budget $ 2,074,288,518
Politics & Lobbying $ 320,174,659

American Federation of Teachers
1.5 million members

Total Budget $ 1,449,811,414
Politics & Lobbying $ 138,087,803

Annual Budget of Slovenia $ 23,500,000,000
There is no such thing as a U.S. Teacher

• Standards

• Certification/Licensure

• Salaries

3.1 million Public FTE (16:1)
0.4 million Private FTE (?)

Average Salary
$56,383
There is no such thing as a **U.S. Curriculum**

- Content Standards
- Methods
- Materials
- Assessment
There is no such thing as a typical public school student in the U.S.
Language Diversity in the US

Averages are deceptive!

US Census Bureau 2014
English Language Learners by State:
Public School Students in the U.S.
If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war. As it stands, we have allowed this to happen to ourselves. We have even squandered the gains in student achievement made in the wake of the Sputnik challenge. Moreover, we have dismantled essential support systems which helped make those gains possible. We have, in effect, been committing an act of unthinking, unilateral educational disarmament.
SIX main forms of U.S. School Choice

Private Schools
Magnet Schools
School Vouchers
Home Schooling
Charter Schools
Virtual Schools
Private Schools

What is it?

6,319,650 students
30,861 schools
80% religious
Average tuition is $10,740 (Most expensive NON BOARDING school in America is Miss Porter’s School in Farmington, Connecticut. Tuition is $42,850)

How is it different from traditional schools?

Parents voluntary selection
May teach religion
May have uncertified teachers
May have selective admission standards
Private Schools

How has it grown?
Number of students has been fairly stable over the last decade. Catholic schools decreasing. Non-sectarian schools increasing.

What are its strengths?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 4 Reading</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below Basic</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proficient</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What are its weaknesses?
Expensive and selective by SES (socio-economic status)
Erodes the concept of public schools as cultural/democratic centers of the country
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First Magnet School was in Tacoma, Washington in 1968.

Alternative to forced school bussing to achieve racial integration.

A public school offering special instruction and programs not available elsewhere designed to attract a more diverse student body from throughout a district.

US Government funds a Magnet School Assistance Program (MSAP) that grants $91,647,000 to schools which meet the program’s requirements.

How is it different from traditional schools?

Although still a public school, magnet schools offer special programs (often STEM), often have enhanced facilities due to the MSAP, allow waivers from the neighborhood school rules, and make admission decisions based upon ethnicity.
Magnet Schools

How has it grown?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000-2001</th>
<th>2010-2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Magnet School Students</td>
<td>1,213,976</td>
<td>2,055,133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What are its strengths?

Magnet schools tend to enroll larger proportions of Black and Hispanic students than traditional public schools. They have also been found to reduce high concentrations of poverty by attracting a more diverse population of students. However, research on magnet schools' success in promoting racial integration is mixed.

Students attending senior high magnet schools have higher graduation rates than students attending traditional public high schools.

In most cases, students attending magnet schools are more likely to exhibit positive academic attitudes and behaviors than their peers enrolled in traditional public schools.

From “A Review of the Research on Magnet Schools,” Miami, Florida Office of Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis
Magnet Schools

What are its weaknesses?

“The evidence on magnet schools for improving student scores and other educational outcomes is that they have little effect…The effects on achievement and other educational outcomes are small or non-existent.”

Magnet schools have been sustained by outrageous expenditures of funds. For example, the state of Missouri allocated $1.5 billion to Kansas City and St. Louis over five years.

Rossell, C., Handbook of School Choice
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School Vouchers

What is it?

A government-funded voucher attached to the student that is redeemable at a school other than the public school which the student can attend for free.

How is it different from traditional schools?

- Allows parental choice
- Opens up low income families to private schools
- Includes many religious schools
- Scholarship tax credits

How has it grown?

- Started as early as 1869 in Vermont and Maine
- Modern vouchers started in 1989-90 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Permitted in 18 states and District of Columbia
- 39 voucher programs
- $1.2 billion
- 308,000 students
School Vouchers

What are its strengths?
- Freedom of choice
- Expands private school option for poorer parents

What are its weaknesses?
- Violation of church-state separation
- Diverts money from public schools
- No evidence of better performance
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Homeschooling

Parent-Led, Home-Based Education of School-aged Children

Coalition for Responsible Home Education

Today's estimate: 2 million students or 4% of school-aged population
Legal Homeschooling Requirements

- No Notice
- Notice Only
- Assessment with Exceptions
- Moderate Assessments
- Thorough Assessments (4 States)
Homeschool Outcomes

- High Academic Achievement
- Social, Emotional, & Psychological Development
- Life (Personal Growth)

Criticisms

- Luxury for Well-educated Parents
- Religious Zealots
- Gaps in Curricula
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Charter Schools

• Publicly Funded in 42 States

• Created by Teachers, Community Members & Charter Management Organizations

• Exchange Autonomy for Accountability

• Growth from 2 in 1992 to over 6,500 schools in 2015

• Parents Like Them

• Evidence of Increased Achievement across all Charter Schools is Weak
gary miron, handbook of school choice

the charter school ideal

structural changes:
- choice
- deregulation/autonomy
- accountability

opportunity space/intermediate goals:
- governance
- parental and community involvement
- teacher autonomy and professionalism
- curricular and pedagogical innovations
- privatization

outcomes/final goals:
- increased levels of student achievement
- customer satisfaction

reality

for-profit trend

not for-profit
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Virtual Schools

- Internet or Web-based K-12 Educational Organization that Delivers Courses Totally Online or Hybrid

- Why choose a virtual school?
  - Advanced Courses
  - Credit Recovery
  - Health Issues
  - Needs of Special Populations such as Gifted, Elite Athletes, Actors
  - Mobile Families (Military & Gov’t workers)
The IDEAL

**Strengths:** Flexibility, Availability, Not Limited by Geographic Location
Reality

• Difficult to Match Students to Virtual Schools

• Lack Data on Attrition

• Teacher/Student Ratio, Teacher Preparation, Teacher Retention & Salaries

• Parent/Facilitator as Teacher

• Assignments and Assessments
An Invitation

Hawaii International Conference On Education

15th Annual Conference

January 3-6, 2017
Honolulu, Hawaii

http://hiceducation.org/school-choice/
Discussion
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