Visual Representation #1

Historical and Economic factors that have influenced education in the United States.

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The history of our educational system dates back to the late 18th century when apprenticeships dominated the educational field.

In the early 19th century, education was greatly influenced by political legislation, policies, and agendas.

The beginning of public schools in the early 19th century had two agendas:

- “To unite Americans by instilling in students common moral and political values.” (Spring, 2018).
- “To create a national culture and to educate qualified [future] politicians for a republic government.” (Spring, 2018).
Goals of Schooling

- Teaching all students common political beliefs while learning to obey authority figures.
- Promoting equal opportunity so that students can be elected politicians in the future.
- Emphasizing the importance of voting.
- Learning how to be patriotic.
- Getting students involved with their communities.

- These goals, politicians hoped, would decrease immorality, crime, and prevent a political uprising from occurring.

(Spring, 2018)
The U.S. government was concerned about the health and welfare of American families due to the increase in population in the late 19th to early 20th century.

In regards to schools, the government added school nurses, playing facilities, after-school programs, and cafeterias for American children.

The government was concerned with providing nutritional meals for kids.

Now, the government is concerned with child obesity.
Protected vs. Prepared Childhood

- Protected childhood is based on “the happiness and wellbeing of the child.” (Spring, 2018).
- Schools reflect the protected child by providing:
  - Recess
  - Gym
  - School clubs
  - Extra-curricular activities
  - Kindergarten for development and imagination and many others.
  - (Spring, 2018)

- Prepared childhood is based on “the child’s future as an adult rather than concern about the child’s immediate happiness.” (Spring, 2018).
- Schools reflect the prepared child by providing:
  - Career education
  - “Reduction of art programs and recess time for more class time and preparation.” (Spring, 2018).
The Civil Rights Movement

- **Brown vs. The Board of Education**
  - In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregated public schools was unconstitutional.
  - Overturned *Plessy vs. Ferguson* (1896) which authorized segregation in schools.
  - This court case allowed African Americans to attend all white schools. Many white Americans despised this new law.
  - The Civil Right Movement affected schools and the way they taught curriculum. Now, schools were teaching about racial harmony, multiculturalism, and about immigrants and Native Americans. (Spring, 2018)

- Left: African American student Elizabeth Eckford attending the first day of school at Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas in 1957.
The goal of economics in education is preparing one for the global market.

Spring states that the “current goal of schooling is educating students to compete in a global labor market…[which] politicians claim will result in economic growth and help the United States compete in the global economy.” (Spring, 2018).
Horace Mann believed in the Human Capital Theory

- This theory involved investing in education so that a person’s intellectual outcomes will increase the wealth in the United States. This would lead to economic growth.

- In regards to parents with no children, Mann stated that “even people without children economically benefited from schools.” (Spring, 2018)
Mann believed that if the government invested in education it would decrease poverty, lead to economic growth, and educate the average citizen so that he/she would live a better life.

**Poor vs. Rich communities**

- Throughout the United States, rich and middle-class students were able to receive an education due to their places of residence. Poor children were often not as lucky.

- Institutions such as preschools and Head-Start programs give poor children a chance to be educated so that they might rise to the same level as high-income families.
Spring states that educational inflation is caused when the job market is flooded with college graduates who cannot get a job in their area of study. This, he argues, will “decrease the economic value of academic diplomas” and thus, not contribute to the global economy.” (Spring, 2018).

College graduates vs. Job experience.

Although a college degree benefits a person’s wealth and contributes to the global economy, some employers would rather hire a person with job experience.
Economic issues in education

- Usually when a state is in debt, the state makes large cuts to the budget. With these cuts, education is often targeted. “Funding for various educational programs that benefit students and the community are also greatly reduced which leads to a poorly educated student body.” (Alleyne, 2018).

- A poor economic economy also affects teacher layoffs along with hiring and salary freezes. (Alleyne, 2018)
Conclusion

There are many factors historically and economically that have influenced the context of our educational system. Politics have always influenced what our schools should look like. Politics and legislation created welfare agencies, ended segregation in schools, and have been the center of cultural court cases which will be described in my next PowerPoint presentation. Economically, the idea of educational investment to drive up the wealth of the country has always been and is still the center of economic influence toward education. Although this is true, a state’s economic woes contribute to a decrease in funding toward education.


How school was different [digital image]. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://blogs.ancestry.com/cm/how-school-was-different-in-the-1800s/.
References


