

Public Education in the United States

{ A Brief Introduction



{ Anything not specifically mentioned in the United States Constitution, including public education, is left to the States.

United States Constitution

THEORETICAL TOWNSHIP DIAGRAM SHOWING METHOD OF NUMBERING SECTIONS WITH ADJOINING SECTIONS

36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6
12	7	8	9	10	11	12	7
13	18	17	16	15	14	13	18
24	19	20	21	22	23	24	19
25	30	29	28	27	26	25	30
36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6

The Land Ordinance of 1785 set aside section 16 of each township for public education.

An aerial view showing sections delineated by roads.





The Township School



The first public schools were financed locally. Local residents would subscribe so their children could attend, or the local government would levy a tax. A Township Trustee or Board of Education was elected to supervise the teacher.

Important Ideas which Influenced American Education

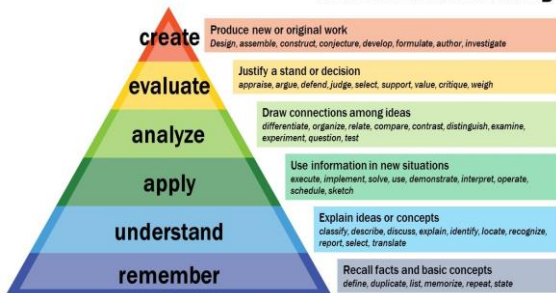
- The Carnegie Unit (1910)
- John Dewey – Pragmatism
 - “Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”
 - “Failure is instructive. The person who really thinks, learns quite as much from his failures as from his successes.”
- Spent two years in China 1919-1921, which deeply influenced is pragmatist philosophy
- Professionalized teaching
 - Student focused pedagogy
 - Continuing education



John Dewey with Hu Shih

Benjamin Bloom & the American Education Research Association

Bloom's Taxonomy



The United States Department of Education

Guaranteed Student Loans, Pell Grants, etc.

Specific Grants

- Title Programs
- School Safety
- Special Education
- Improving Teacher Quality
- Neglected and Delinquent Children
- State Assessments
- Career and Technical Education
- English Learners

The United States Department of Education

U.S. DOE Does not...

- Directly govern state programs
- Dictate subject matter curricula
- Have any direct influence on State DOE's

The U.S. DOE Does

- Mostly influence through funding decisions
- Block grants given to State DOE's
- Interprets laws and provides guidance from legislative educational initiatives
- Set tone for educational reform

State Departments of Education

- Receive block grants from federal government
- Read grant applications and fund school districts according to guidelines
- Distribute federal and state funding
- Provide curriculum standards and expert assistance
- Provide guidance on buildings and approves all plans
- One state's (Indiana's) programs at: <http://www.doe.in.gov/idoed/directory-offices-and-services>

Indiana Department of Education

State DOE does not...

- Take responsibility for teacher and principal placement or dismissal, other than to post openings
- Dictate to superintendents or principals how to operate their districts/buildings
- Provide guidelines or qualifications for school board membership
- Create individual district budget planning or determine how funds must be allocated

Almost all public schools are governed by an elected school board.



School Board Functions

- Hire and evaluate the superintendent who is the district's CEO
- Set policy
- Approve budget
- Meet to hear reports from staff



Individual District Operation

- Elected School Board
- Superintendent is the CEO
- Provides quality facilities (buildings, grounds, etc.)
- Creates policies for students and teachers
- Hires and fires all employees (upon recommendations from HR and/or superintendent)
- Creates the local budget
- Levies taxes within limits of law
- Interprets state standards and approves curricula accordingly
- Provides teacher training
- Promotes district to community
- Addresses local problems
- Provides student transportation

Individual Schools

- Principal operates building, supervises all staff, receives help from Central Office when issues arise
- Teachers have a lot of autonomy in lesson planning and the way curricula is presented
- Assistant principals and counselors address individual student problems
- Teachers have heavy load—may be with students six out of seven hours of the school day
- Teachers responsible for planning, presentation and ultimately for student learning.
- Teachers grade classroom assessments and “homework”
- Support staff includes Instructional Assistants, clerical assistance to principal, cafeteria employees, and custodians

School Administrator Annual Salary Ranges

(Salaries heavily dependent on district/school size and location)

Superintendent	\$95,000 - \$200,000
Assistant Superintendent	\$75,000 - \$150,000
Director	\$70,000 - \$140,000
High School Principal	\$70,000 - \$130,000
Middle School Principal	\$60,000 - \$120,000
Elementary School Principal	\$50,000 - \$100,000

Teacher Salaries

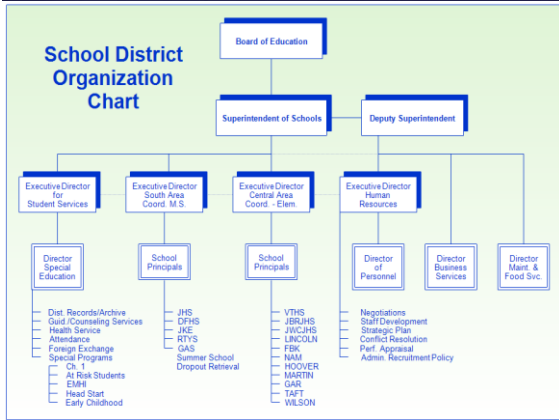
(Teaching level has no bearing on salary)

Beginning Teacher	\$30,000 - \$40,000
Mid-Career Teacher	\$45,000 - \$55,000
Top Teacher	\$50,000 - \$70,000

Average Teacher Salary Varies Significantly by State*

State	Beginning Salary	Average Salary
Montana	\$27,274	\$48,855
Idaho	\$31,159	\$49,734
Arkansas	\$32,691	\$46,631
Wisconsin	\$33,546	\$53,797
Indiana	\$34,696	\$50,065
Michigan	\$35,901	\$61,560
Texas	\$38,091	\$48,819
Massachusetts	\$40,600	\$72,334
Maryland	\$43,235	\$64,248

* Data from National Education Association 2013-2014



Types of American K-12 Education

- Public Schools
- Private Schools
 - Exclusive, Expensive Schools
 - Parochial Schools
- Charter Schools
- Pre-Kindergarten



Percentages of Enrollment

- Regular Public Schools 84.9%
- Private and Parochial Schools 10%
 - ✦ Catholic 29.5%
 - ✦ Other Religious 47.3 %
 - ✦ Independent 20.2 %
- Public Charter Schools 5.1%

Customary Educational Practices

Practices Differ by State

- Usually students must start school by 6-years old
- Most start in public kindergarten at 5-years old
- Kindergarten not required in all states
- Pre-school (ages 3 to 4) offered by some states
- Students must remain in school through age 18 (May quit at 16 with parent permission)
- Self-contained classroom through 4th grade
- Departmentalized starting in grade 5
- Division of grades by school varies widely even Within States
- Children screened for learning issues before age 3 (Federal Law)
- Pre-school mandatory for developmentally disabled
- About 15% of children identified as special needs
- Specials and electives
- High school credit



State Education Funding

Different in each state
 Can change with each legislative session
 School formula

- Per student support
- Poverty level
- Special programs

Sources of Funding

- State income tax
- State sales tax
- Local property tax
- Excise tax
- Financial institution tax



Local Budget Process

Superintendent or business manager...

- Solicits principals and other staff on budget needs
- Determines amount of funds available through state and local support
- Divides funds into specific categories according to State Board of Accounts guidelines.
- Holds budget meeting with school board
- Advertises proposed budget
- Holds budget hearing
- Adopts budget and advertises
