

BECOMING A TEACHER

CHAPTER 6: GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE OF U.S. SCHOOLS STUDY GUIDE

1. What is the arena of educational politics and how do people use it?
2. What do professional teachers recognize concerning political interest groups?
3. According to the text, what groups have a keen concern for shaping educational policies?
4. What has happened to the number of school districts in the United States Since the 1939—1940
5. Who has the responsibility and primary function is it to maintain schools?
6. What is the organizational structure of schools?
7. What are the characteristics of the New York City school system?
8. What are the functions of the school board?
9. What did a national survey of the characteristics of school board members reveal?
10. What do critics of school boards point out?
11. Who has the responsibility of ensuring that schools operate in accordance with federal and state guidelines?
12. Discuss the relationship between school boards and superintendents?
13. What are the characteristics of successful schools?
14. What are the following examples of :S hared governance, administrative decentralization, teacher empowerment, professionalization, bottom-up policy-making, school-based planning, and school-based management?
15. What structural conditions were found to enhance a school's "professional community" and increase students' learning?
16. According to the text, what best describes the school-based management experiences of the City of Chicago Public Schools?
17. What is the school improvement in which teachers, principals, students, parents, and community members manage individual schools and share in the decision-making process?
18. What components do most school-based management (SBM) programs have?
19. What are the powers of the states in order to maintain and support schools?
20. What is the body that determines how taxes will be used to support schools, what will or will not be taught, and the length of the school day and year?
21. What is the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA), and what was the final result?
22. In one of the nation's most dramatic education reform efforts, the Kentucky Education
23. What required each of the state's schools to form a school-based management council to set policy in?
24. Should a dispute arise within a state regarding a law related to education, what body is charged with the power to decide on the reasonableness of the law?
25. What does the governor have the power to do?
26. What is the highest educational agency in a state?
27. Within a state, what body usually charged with managing state monies appropriated for education?
28. What are the advisory functions performed by state boards of education?
29. Within a state, what body usually charged with the day-to-day implementation of educational policies is the
30. What are the responsibilities of the state department of education?
31. In most states, who is the head of the state board of education?
32. What are responsibilities of the chief state school officer?
33. What is the role of the regional educational service agency?
34. What does an intermediate or regional unit may provide?
35. According to the text, what are accurate descriptions of regional educational service agencies?
36. What is the federal government initiative known as the Lanham?
37. How do the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal government influence education?
38. What influential and extensive federal education program was signed into law by President Roosevelt in 1944?
39. During President Clinton's term of office (1992—2000), what did the federal government do?
40. What has funding for schools has often been offset by?
41. By 2008, what was the total expenditure for public elementary and secondary schools in the United States?

42. Who provided the majority of funding for schools?
43. All of the following statements concerning the financing of education in the 50 states are generally correct except _____
44. At the local level, where does most of the funding for schools come from?
45. At the state level, where does most funding for schools come from?
46. What are the supplemental programs to help meet the needs of special school populations?
47. What is the federal program designed to provide preschool experiences to poor children?
48. What are the programs in which states set the same per-pupil expenditure level for all schools and districts?
49. What is allocating funds according to legitimate educational needs such as low-income students or students with limited English proficiency is called?
50. What are State-appropriated funds to cover the costs of educating students with special needs known as?
51. According to the 2007 Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll, what was the public attitude toward school choice programs that would allow parents to choose a private school?
52. What is the approach whereby parents are given money by the state to enroll their children in the school of their choice?
53. Over the past decade, what has happened to corporate contributions to education?
54. What is considered to be one of the most controversial educational issues of the twenty-first century in the United States?
55. What are the advantages of for-profit schools?

Short Essay Questions

56. What are the examples of how the characteristics of local school districts can vary?
57. Why is the role of parents important in American education?
58. What are the three components that most school-based management programs have in common?
59. What are five of the responsibilities of the superintendent of schools.
60. How are the five groups identified in the text as having an interest in education seek to promote their influence.
61. How do the two roles of the superintendent to two related roles of the school board compare?
62. What is the role of the state department of education and what are the responsibilities that are within its scope of power?
63. What are the potential benefits of school restructuring?
64. What actions can be taken by states that demonstrate expanding state control over public school classrooms?
65. What is the origin and overall impact of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) on school funding?
66. What are the approaches to funding for educational equity and effectiveness?
67. What is redistricting? Why would states choose this approach to achieving equal funding?
68. What are the arguments for and the arguments against using school choice programs to improve schooling?

Case Study

Mr. and Mrs. Hernandez live in an urban area in a neighborhood that is considered poor. They have lived in the neighborhood for 12 years and have seen conditions in the area deteriorate. The Hernandez family includes four children that attend the elementary and middle schools in the neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Hernandez have been discussing the new program that has been integrated into the state educational system—a voucher system. They are somewhat confused in terms of what the program is about and how it will affect their children.

69. How would you explain the concept of a voucher system to Mr. and Mrs. Hernandez?
70. What are the advantages of a voucher system?
71. What do opponents of the voucher system say about the impact of such a system on educational opportunity?
72. How would a voucher system impact the Hernandez family?