Challenging the Current Curricula: A Look into Individualizing Teaching

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Challenging the Current Curricula: A Look Into Individualizing Teaching
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Definition Of Mandated Curriculum

- Researchers Kauffman, Johnson, Kardos, Liu, & Peske (2002) state that a “complete curriculum specifies content, skills, or topics for teachers to cover; suggests a timeline; and incorporates a particular approach or offers institutional materials”
- Curriculum can either be the guide that publishers and those of higher authority give the teachers to teach their students, or can be developed by a teacher who designs a plan of how to teach specific subject matter to his or her students
- In this paper I use the term “curriculum” to refer to the method and the content students are taught under school guidance

Pro: Consistency
- Support system

Con: Narrow curriculum
- Implemented differently

Methodology

- The research I found to support my topic was primarily from online search engines
- I started with Google Scholar as well as through the Ames Library catalog
- I used a variety of key terms in my search to find relevant articles, specifically literature review of ten peer reviewed articles from the last decade

Research Question

What affect does mandated curricula have on teachers?

Findings

Positive:
- Consistency
- Support system

One in five new teachers in the U.S. leave within their first three years of teaching (Olson, 2002, as cited in Kauffman, Johnson, Kardos, Liu, & Peske, 2002, p. 292)

Negative:
- Deskilling
- Limited curriculum
- Implemented differently

Researcher Crawford (2004) describes this as teachers losing “the desire, inclination, and in some case, the aptitude to exercise the professional rights and responsibilities that have historically been associated with educational work” (p.206)

Teachers can be more effective teachers if given more discretion in the curriculum design and delivery
- This will require changes in teacher education programs and possibly even in acceptance criteria into those programs

Conclusion


1. Methodology

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