

# Social Dimensions

Joseph Brooks  
Michael Brooks  
Katie Byrd  
Rhonda Canady



# The Concept of Texas School System: The Governing Agencies and Laws

- ◎ Texas Education Agency
  - “The mission of the Texas Education Agency is to provide leadership, guidance and resources to help schools meet the educational needs of all students.”
- ◎ State Board of Education
  - Includes 15 members from different regions of Texas that are elected. The governor appoints one of these as the chair.
- ◎ State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC)
  - Manages the requirements of the educators. This includes education and preparation, certification, and standards of conduct. It consists of 11 members selected by the governor, and three non-voting members. TEA assists by providing support to the staff of the SBEC board.

# The Concept of Texas School System: Current Issues Facing Educational Funding in Texas

- ◎ **General Diffusion of Knowledge**—accreditation and accountability rating requirements that applies to public schools
- ◎ **Adequate Funding**—adequate funding for the level of resources needed to educate every child in the public school systems by state and federal requirements
- ◎ **Fiscal Capacity**—school district growth to the lack of fiscal capacity
- ◎ **Local Discretion**—ability of public schools to raise additional revenue to meet financial obligations
- ◎ **Spending**—distribution of fiscal spending per pupil in the school system

# The Concept of Texas School System: The Rules

- ◎ TEC, TAC, and local policies / procedures
  - “The rules adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE) and the Commissioner of Education are part of a larger body of state agency rules known as the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). These rules are collected and published by the Office of the Secretary of State. SBOE and commissioner's rules are codified under Title 19, Part II, of the TAC. Title 19 is Education, and Part II is the Texas Education Agency. The SBOE and the Commissioner of Education may adopt new rules or amendments to existing rules.”
  - Texas Education Code (TEC) is a set of state laws that govern the public education system.
  - Local policies adopted by local school boards
  
- ◎ Link to TAC:  
<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/index.html>

## References:

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/index.html>

<http://portal.esc20.net/portal/page/portal/TPSS/Components>

# The Concept of Texas School System: Components of the System

- ⦿ Governance
- ⦿ Finance
- ⦿ Human Resources
- ⦿ Data and Information Management Systems
- ⦿ Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- ⦿ Technology Infrastructure and Integration
- ⦿ Maintenance and Operations

Reference: <http://portal.esc20.net/portal/page/portal/TPSS/Components>

# Developing a Shared-Community Vision

- ◎ **Principal's role in creating a vision**—ensure the administration is working to adopt the shared core vision framework development
- ◎ **Exercise for identifying core beliefs**—adopt the core foundation that aligns with district, state, and federal guidelines that entails a quality education for all students
- ◎ **Exercise for creating a shared vision**—know where you want to go in the development of academic core beliefs which includes compliance and approval of all involved intricately, such as district personnel, community, state regulatory officials in the process

Reference: <http://mdk12.org/process/leading/vision.html>

# Developing a Shared- Community Vision: Why is it so important?

- ◎ According to Adelman and Taylor in their guide called *Fostering School, Family and Community Involvement*, in rural communities community involvement is essential to the development and effectiveness of the school system.
  - By involving the community, there is the probability for a better understanding of student needs.
  - It is likely to enhance school and community awareness in regards to learning barriers, child development, and building stronger families and neighborhoods.

Reference: Adelman, Howard, Taylor, Linda. 2007 September. *Fostering School, Family and Community Involvement* Retrieved from <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/publications/44%20guide%207%20fostering%20school%20family%20and%20community%20involvement.pdf>

# Developing a Shared-Community Vision

- ① Shared community-school vision allows everyone involved to be more aware of student needs related to safety, physical needs, emotional needs, etc. and helps to place children's needs first.
- ① According to Adelman and Taylor,  
“In the long-run, however, family-community-school collaboratives must be driven by a comprehensive vision strengthening youngsters, families, schools, and neighborhoods. This encompasses a focus on safe schools and neighborhoods; positive development and learning; personal, family, and economic well-being; and more.”

Reference: Adelman and Taylor, 2007

# Developing a Shared Community Vision: Recommendations for Implementation

- ⦿ Encourage “round table” discussions with community members, stakeholders, and district staff about where the local school district stands in relation to finances, state requirements, programs available, etc.
- ⦿ Have program committees that involve members from different backgrounds, races, careers, socioeconomic statuses, etc. from the community.
- ⦿ Encourage student activities and programs that include and promote the local community development.
- ⦿ Make visible the district plans for improvement, as well as the goals to the public.
- ⦿ Have community events at the school.
- ⦿ Have students visit and participate at local businesses, with local individuals, etc.

# Developing Community among Diverse Stakeholders

**The following concept that has been defined identifies how a state has facilitated school and community partnerships across diverse stakeholders.**

“Summary: The goal of this module is to highlight the importance of building community partnerships by bringing community members and educators together in an effort to impact school and community improvement. This module focuses on the educator as facilitator in organizing a team of diverse stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and representatives of community organizations and agencies) to collaborate around the issue of student achievement. The philosophy of the Algebra Project, Inc., a math and science program originated in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1982, will be used to demonstrate how local communities can be organized to support student’s academic achievement.”

Reference: <http://cnx.org/content/m14711/latest/>

# Developing Community among Diverse Stakeholders

- ⦿ According to Adelman and Taylor, community stakeholders are necessary to build vision amongst the community and the school. “Such collaboration takes stakeholder readiness.”
- ⦿ The diversity of these stakeholders is imperative to the cultural health of the school. This ensures that different students can be represented by many different stakeholders with their diverse ideas.

# The Concept of Texas School System

- ① “The mission of the Texas Public Education System is to ensure that all Texas children have access to a quality education that enables them to achieve their potential and fully participate now and in the future in the social, economic and educational opportunities of our state and nation.”
- ② *“The Mission is grounded on the conviction that a successful public education system is directly related to a strong, dedicated, and supportive family and that parental involvement in the school is essential for the maximum educational achievement of a child.”*

# Developing Community among Diverse Stakeholders

- Adelman and Taylor state, “When a broad range of stakeholders are motivated to work together toward a shared vision, they come up with more innovative and effective strategies than any guidebook or toolkit can contain.”
- When diverse members of the community put ideas together, the end result is broader ideas that engulf students from all cultures, religions, backgrounds, socioeconomic groups, etc.

# Developing Community among Diverse Stakeholders

- ◎ Ensuring diverse and effective stakeholders continue with involvement
  - Written descriptions of all community partnerships
  - Allow them to voice ideas and concerns
  - Involve them in planning and making goals for the district
  - Assign them tasks if appropriate
  - Meet with them on a regular basis
  - Ensure they understand their importance

# Community Development in Cyberspace

The use of technology as a major delivery system in the facilitation of courses “involves more than taking traditional models and transferring them to a different medium.”

This paper identifies how the role of community in cyberspace is predominantly redefining the teaching strategies that were previously used in the classroom.

Reference: [http://www.uwex.edu/disted/conference/Resource\\_library/proceedings/01\\_20.pdf](http://www.uwex.edu/disted/conference/Resource_library/proceedings/01_20.pdf)

# Community Development in Cyberspace

"I'm wondering what it means to form a social contract in Cyberspace, one with the kind of authenticity and authority of a constitution. Sounds great in theory, but I don't actually "live" in Cyberspace -- I live in New York City, in the state of New York, in the United States of America. I guess I'm taking things too literally. Apparently my "mind" lives in Cyberspace and that's what counts. It's my vestigial meat-package, also known as my body, which lives in New York. Government, geography, my body -- all are obsolete now thanks to "Cyberspace that new home of mind," ... *David Bennahum*

Reference: [http://sociologyindex.com/cyberspace\\_cybersociology.htm](http://sociologyindex.com/cyberspace_cybersociology.htm)

# Community Development in Cyberspace

- Sociology of Cyberspace studies the social construction of the virtual world, new virtual communities, new culture, institutions and norms in a globalized world.
- Studies of the social impact of the Internet must consider the social consequences, the changing lifestyle of the new economy, new forms of popular culture and its impact on people's lives. Sociology of Cyberspace studies the contemporary revolution in human interaction through the medium of computer with the emergence of new languages of expression and the impact of hypertext and multimedia technologies on human thinking and learning.
- "People will live in cyberspace, meet and make love in virtual reality" - *vpr*

**The Information Society: Cyber Dreams and Digital Nightmares** by Robert Hassan  
(Paperback - Nov 17, 2008)

**Cybercrime: The Transformation of Crime in the Information Age** (Crime and Society)  
by David S. Wall (Paperback - Sep 21, 2007)

# Community Development in Cyberspace

- ⦿ Sociology of Cyberspace studies the new concepts of space, time, order and anonymity with its new representation of gender, race and class.
- ⦿ The political impact of the internet encompasses a number of issues: free access, technological determinism, encryption, co modification, intellectual property, the public sphere, decentralization, anarchy, propaganda, activism, terrorism, gender and ethnicity.

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