

Research on Curriculum Development and Implementation

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What Is Curriculum?

- ★ Curriculum “enables the educator to determine the environment of the child” (Dewey, 1902)
- ★ “Curriculum is that series of things which children and youth must do and experience by way of developing abilities to do the things well that make up the affairs of adult life; and to be in all respects what adults should be” (Bobbitt, 1918)




What Is Curriculum?

- ★ Ralph Tyler's *Basic Principles of Curriculum and Instruction* (1949) asserted his rationale
- ★ 1. What educational purposes should the school seek to attain? (Defining appropriate learning objectives.)
- ★ 2. How can learning experiences be selected which are likely to be useful in attaining these objectives? (Introducing useful learning experiences.)
- ★ 3. How can learning experiences be organized for effective instruction? (Organizing experiences to maximize their effect.)
- ★ 4. How can the effectiveness of learning experiences be evaluated? (Evaluating the process and revising the areas that were not effective.)



What Is Curriculum?

- ★ Freire's concern was for dialogue, praxis, enhancing community and building social capital
- ★ Goodson questions traditional school-subject curriculum, contends that their competing status and power to compete in the provision of 'worthwhile' knowledge (2002)
- ★ Apple calls for alternate epistemologies and new ways to think about curriculum projects (1998)



How Do Teachers Understand Curriculum?

- ★ “What should be taught and how it should be taught” Celeste
- ★ “The underlying structure in which we build in order to help children develop in their learning” Cristina
- ★ “A teacher’s Bible” Ana
- ★ “A blueprint for education” Belinda



How Do Elementary School Children Understand Curriculum?

- ★ "It's a scary word"
- ★ "Something you learn or study"
- ★ "An important word"
- ★ "Something you study"
- ★ "I think curriculum is what you think. It also sounds like cranium. And cranium is what gave me the idea!"



Contemporary Curriculum Research as Reported at:

- ◆ AERA-American Education Research Association
- ◆ ASCD-Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development



Field-Curriculum Development and Research

- ★ Contemporary Curriculum:

- ★ Textbook Content Analyses
- ★ Social Studies Textbook Author
- ★ Elementary School Implementation of a Character Education Curriculum

- ★ Historical Research:

- ★ Curriculum During World War II
- ★ Character Education Curriculum, 1920-1940
- ★ Teacher Responses to the Gulf War



Curriculum Question

- ★ What is my role in the planning, development, implementation, and assessment of curriculum?