

Future of Education in America

When I look ahead to the future of education in American, what do I see? If I think ahead to 2032, which is 20 years from now I will be somewhat more of an experienced teacher. I will have established my role in a school system, and hopefully have some kind of system set up in my classroom for planning my lessons and classroom procedures. But what do I see for the future of education as a whole in 20 years? A lot can happen in 20 years! “During a two-decade period, an entire generation of children matures from infancy to college. Some sixty million Americans earn high school diplomas—and maybe twenty million more drop out. Those who entered kindergarten at the beginning of the period will possess graduate degrees at the end of it—well, some of them will. Millions of teachers and tens of thousands of principals will be replaced by people not currently employed in those positions. Urban school districts will run through a half dozen superintendents each. States will elect up to five governors (Finn Jr. 77).” For me personally, that is crazy to think about!

This is a tough question to answer because the answer to this question could be either positive or negative. The first prediction I make that will happen in education is that American students will become more knowledgeable, and school costs hopefully dropping. According to Paul Peterson an author for the book *American Education in 2030* says that just by looking at the trends from the last 40 years you can see where the future of education will be in the next two generations. He predicts that the percentage of students attending school will decline and that the price for one student to attend school will triple. Peterson mentions that the government will have more control over the school system than local school boards will, and that state and federal courts will have more control of school activities. Charter school attendance will increase whereas public school attendance will remain the same. He also talks about how graduation

rates will continue to decline, and minority students will fall behind white students. The U.S will continue to remain behind the rest of the world in math and science as well. In the future they hypothesize that teachers will not be as qualified to teach. Overall, with a bad economy still in the headlights for the future, more money is going to be needed to hire people to work in the school system and their efforts to help students be more successful in school will fail. But there are trends that could help American education be very successful. This would be mainly because of technological advances that are already happening and will happen. Because of the rising cost of schools and how easy it is to access information online, schools may move to the majority of classes being offered online which is extremely cost friendly (Finn Jr. 2-5). From what Peterson has studied, he does not see American students becoming more knowledgeable, and he sees the economy staying the same and prices continuing to rise.

My second prediction is that America is still going to struggle to keep up with the rest of the world in education. Globalization is another big factor that will affect education in America in the future. Globalization is defined as “the widening, deepening and speeding up of worldwide interconnectedness (Kärkkäinen 18).” American students are currently falling behind other countries in science and math scores. America was built by immigration, our own ancestors were immigrants and we continue to have immigrants come to America. “Worldwide networking and exchange are reshaping social, economic and cultural life. In global knowledge economies, higher education institutions are more important than ever as mediums for a wide range of cross-border relationships and continuous global flows of people, information, knowledge, technologies, products and financial capital (Kärkkäinen 18-23).” So America has to pick up their end on education to be able to keep up with the global world around them, and so we can continue to be an international power.

My third prediction is that technology is going to completely change the way schools run. Technology is already changing the way students learn in the classroom. A lot of schools already have Kindles, iPads, SMART boards, and laptops. Students are starting to respond better to using these forms to learn because it is more efficient for their time. It also helps students retain what they are learning about because it uses more games and simulations. Some people in the world are predicting that technological change will be slow because the government and schools lack the funds to support the changes, but there have been big leaps in technology in the last years that have already begun to help education. Some of the big changes that will come about with more technology in schools are the reduced amount of textbooks and paper, social media will be how teachers communicate with students, and attendance won't matter as long as homework is turned in on time. Home-schooling will also become more common because of all the online classes offered. A new idea that I have never heard of is learning analytics which is a way for teachers to track their student's progress because they will have more data available to them. With learning analytics teachers can personalize lessons to each student depending on their learning needs (Pinantoan).

My fourth prediction is schools are going to have to better prepare students for the outside world, and prepare them for the workforce at an earlier age. This means that curriculum changes will have to be made. Technology will have to become part of the curriculum for students to be able to get a job in the future. With technology being added to the curriculum, current schools using technology are finding out that they have to teach the students how to use the new devices first. Plus everything is more than likely to be taught off of some kind of electronic. High school internships will also increase in the coming years so students will have more experience and be more prepared for the skills they will need in their jobs in the future.

The final thing that researchers are saying will be a change in curriculum is that teachers are going to have to change their teachings styles to benefit students from a variety of backgrounds. It is going to be hard to teach students who know little to no English, so teachers will either have to teach them in the students' own language and more English as a Second Language classes will have to be implemented (Brooks, Molebash).

“Right now, education is moving along at a snail's pace, while the world outside is speeding by at a supersonic rate (Molebash).” With this quote in mind and thinking about how fast the world has change in the past 20 years, education is going to have to change to keep up with the outside world. Teachers are going to have to be able to adapt to these changes so the future generations can have a quality education to prepare them for their own futures.

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