

April 5 – April 18 Notes

April 7: TED Talks, notes

How to Fix a Broken School: Linda Cliatt-Wayman TED Talk

Philadelphia public schools- high crime and deep poverty

Experience as a principal in a severely low resources school

For many in poverty, schools are not schools at all

Changes happening in Strawberry Mansion High School

- Completely cleaning out unnecessary items

- Adjusted budget to have more funds for teachers and staff

- Rebuilt school schedule with a variety of courses, options, counselling

- Deployment plan to monitor police/support people

- School-wide discipline program called “non negotiables” to promote positive behavior

Results: removed from persistently-dangerous list the first year

Problems: only 1% parent participation, many from incarcerated homes, many special needs, many illiterate

Teachers knew what to teach, but not how to. Students needed to get their individual needs met

You have to love your students and believe in their possibilities

Principal gives attention/walks around the lunch room, sings happy birthday to students

Monthly town hall meetings to listen to their concerns

How to Fix a Broken Education System Without Any More Money: Seema Bansal TED Talk

Given a project to help a significantly under-resourced school in India

People either think teachers are lazy or don't know how to teach- we found out something very different

Observed teachers and their quality, and how students were behaving in response to certain factors

Found great, effective pilot studies but these were not scaled for larger schools. This is because not all schools had the resources which came with these small pilot studies

They implemented using innovative ways to use the resources a school might already have. For example, many studies show how hands-on learning is very effective for younger students. They suggested hands-on options which various, low-resource schools might have

How to implement a wide-scale change? Find a useful way to communicate, using apps like Whatsapp

All of these implementations showed significant results

How America's Public Schools Keep Kids in Poverty: Kandice Sumner TED Talk

Speaker grew up in a low-income neighborhood

Desegregation program public school- took an hour-long bus ride

She realized that she was given far more “gifts” than her neighbors. From the nice facility to the options available to invest in her

She wondered at a young age why everyone didn't get what she got

In the current school she teaches in, she doesn't have the resources to give what she had at the "richer school"

It shouldn't be hard to understand the "Achievement Gap"

The paradigm should be flipped, this is an "Education Debt"

Ordered brand new books and sent them to the school, for these students hearing that strangers wanted them to have these, it made them want to read

There is no democracy if public schools are not equitable

Creative Ways to Get Kids to Thrive in School: Olympia Della Flora TED Talk

Student who was having absurd behavior/anger fits which affected the whole school

No one knew how to help this student (Speaker was the principal)

What am I supposed to do with a student like this? How can I stop him from impeding the learning on other students? We tried everything

Students all over the world are like this, struggling with their education

In order for these students to survive in school, they would need help to deal with and manage their own emotions

You need to think about smarter ways to develop and work with what you have

Things that helped most:

- Find out where the student is struggling the most

- Created a calming area where this student could go to transition into the school environment

- Made the student a helper with kindergarteners understanding letters

- Used humor and song with him

Proactively address behavior, instead of simply reacting to it

Flexible seating for students who have a hard time sitting in desks

Changes encouraged students to stay in the classroom, and made them less disruptive

This process was not costly