

A Look Back at North American Schools

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(note: the book “Disrupting Class” 2008 by Christensen, Horn, and Johnson provided the primary stimulation for this discussion)

- 1890 8% of school age teenagers graduated from high school.
There were nine different courses offered across the entire US
- 1930 Birth of the comprehensive high school. 75% of all eligible students entered high school and almost 45% graduated. Now a mix of vocation training and college preparation.
- Average high school served 100 students
- 1954 “Brown vs. Board of Education” – A US Supreme Court case that ordered the desegregation of US schools. This decision brought to light that not only were blacks not taking part in the explosion of US educational opportunity, but neither were females, the poor, the working class immigrants, the disabled, or the rural residents.
- 1957- Sputnik- the push is on for more rigorous science and math
The birth of AP; multiple music ensembles; multiple foreign languages
- By now US Christian Schools were increasingly populated by families of Dutch influence; They rarely lacked the perception of being high quality even though what really mattered to parents was that they were Christian (For many quality or lack of quality was a non issue. All that mattered was that they were Christian)
- 1960 A strong Christian school-CRC connection made it difficult and painful for CRC families to enroll their children in the public school.
- 1970 Average US public high school served 1,000 students. 69% graduated from high school. Graduation rates were substantially higher in Christian schools
- 1973- 2,100 high school courses offered throughout the US under different headings. 4 tracks: college, commercial, vocational, general. Schools became complex and expensive as they offered unmatched array of offerings.-
- Although 2nd generation Christian schools lagged behind in course offerings, whenever possible they attempted to follow suit in terms of program and delivery. (What baby boomer can forget modern math)
- 1983- In the US, “A Nation at Risk” report showed that SAT scores had been on the decline for 20 years. The new cry- outputs matter more than inputs.

- 1990 Communities are now comparing schools with other communities and real estate values correlate to test scores. “good schools” meant more attractive real-estate values
- 2000 Academic excellence is now part of the US Christian school language
As the school choice movement matured and grew in numbers, parents who had the predictable “Christian school family” profile began to shop around.
CRC financial support for Chr Education existed, but was less robust.
- 2008- Education P-12 is a multi billion dollar enterprise comprised of public, charter, alternative, private, parochial, for profit, home school each trying to figure out economic engine and delivery system.

Interesting reality- For the most part, schools still look pretty much the same

Questions- Together with the members of your small group, please respond to the following:

- 1. As you read through the brief timeline draw up a likely skills profile for the “typical” head of school in 1960.**
- 2. Any skills you would add/subtract to/from the profile in 1990?**
- 3. Any skills you would add/subtract to/from the profile in 2008?**