
“Knowledge from college” is neither predictor nor guarantor of success - Michael Schrage

It's about time

The random thoughts about time were triggered by a couple of items from my weekend reading.

- The Washington Post of June 14, 2014 carried an item about lost or wasted student learning time because of (1) teacher absences (2) substitute teachers, (3) lockdowns, and (4) Inside Work Experiences (IWE) in which students do chores for teachers. To this we could add, snow days, exam days and events.
- The Washington Post article also reported on a lawsuit in California, this one breaking new ground with its focus on what happens, or doesn't happen, in the classroom. Schools are being sued because some students were provided an “insufficient and inequitable” allocation of time for learning.
- The other article, by Maria Konnikova, *No money, no time*, in the New York Times on June 14 is about time and low income families.
- The literature formally recognizes a number of categories of learning time; the longest is the time allotted by Departments of Education and the shortest is the actual time on task. Wasted time in between includes unengaged time, time needed to move between classes, delayed starts and housekeeping matters.
- Schools have yet to learn how to make time work for learners; this results in many students leaving school with low grades. Additional learning time could result in higher grades thereby opening new doors to students when they graduate. The inability to customize learning time is one of education's greatest challenges.
- Challenging for credit comes in a number of forms, prior learning assessment, exemptions and challenge exams; it is also an issue of time. Allowing students to challenge for credit provides an incentive to students and successful challenges may also release teacher resources to devote to other students. When Colonel Gray High School discontinued the practice of exemptions a few years ago, the media reported that a new plan was under development by the Department. I haven't found the replacement plan yet.
- Not surprising, the chief time wasters controlled by teachers occur in the classroom, not starting classes promptly, excessive use of films, discipline time, finishing before end of period and non-teaching duties

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