

American History of Education



EDU 324



June 8, 2015

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Throughout my timeline, there are several events that were extremely important in helping education in the United States to get to where it is today. However, I feel that the most important event thus far has been the development of the Common Core State Standards. This is the first instance in which America has not only looked at the educational achievements of each state, but also that of other countries in order to determine what America needs to do in order to improve our students' performance. For a country as proud and bold as the United States, this is a very drastic measure indeed, and thus far seems to be our best chance at catching up to other countries in terms of how we educate our students.

The most interesting event in our educational history, I think, is the development of Charter Schools. Never before had parents taken such a public stance on their desire to be more in charge of the education of their own children – even including homeschooling, which until relatively recently has stayed out of the limelight. The encouragement of innovative methods and thinking, competitiveness, and efficiency all seem to be things that even today our public schools are lacking, and the inability of the States to interfere with them seems to have been a wise move on the part of those involved with the schools because our States do not exactly have an excellent track record in overseeing education.

I would have loved to have been involved with a Charter School being founded simply because of the ability to think outside of the box in terms of challenging students and making school something to look forward to. I think many students today feel stifled in the public school system (my own son included), and I feel that Charter Schools may have found a fantastic way to overcome that, provided that they are able to keep up with the Common Core Standards. I do

feel though, that teacher certification is something that needs to be included in the schools' charters to ensure that people who should be teaching are.

I can very easily see the standardized testing in use today being severely challenged and drastic changes implemented. As a student of education, I find it fairly obvious that end-of-year testing is not efficient, nor does it serve the best interests of the students, teachers or schools. By saving testing to the end of the year, students who haven't acquired the necessary knowledge will start the next year at a disadvantage because the testing has been done too late to address any gaps in knowledge that are necessary for the next year until there is no time left fill the gap. This in turn reflects badly upon teachers, schools, and school districts. There is far too much at stake for this oversight in the design of assessments for them to continue the way they are.

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