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April 24, 2009
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WHAT THE STUDIES SAY

- Charter schools aren't innovative
 - New Mexico
 - Michigan
 - California
 - Minnesota
 - Arizona
 - And so on...

NOW HERE'S THE REST OF THE STORY...

- What <u>is</u> Innovation?
 - Something old?
 - Something new?
 - Something borrowed?
 - Something through?



READINGS

- What, if anything, does your article say about...
- What is innovation?
- Innovative Curriculum
- Innovative Instructional Practices
- Innovative School Organization/Governance
- Does your group agree/disagree?

WHAT IS INNOVATION?

- Produce new approaches that lead
 Robust, distinguishing to better outcomes
- Means to an end, not the goal
- Laboratories
- Charter-defined
- Choice, accountability, competition
- Something never before seen
- New to community
- Responds to family needs/preferences
- Processing of adopting/sustaining best practices
- Should be transferable

- Means different things to different people
- Doing what has been done, but improving it
- NO ONE AGREES!
- There aren't many good studies (low quality/not credible)—only about 10
- Learning from what works, implement, sustain, move forward to next innovation
- Doesn't have to be something big

INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM

- Specialized focus (fine arts, character ed.)
- Curr. Model to follow-unifying teachers
- Guiding philosophy-focus on child, built around child
- More likely to offer college prep to low income & minority
- HS tend to underperform and Elem outperform traditional schools in reading and math
- Special Ed is a strength
- Reputation as an oasis for SpEd
- Chicago Everyday Math
- California's Gifted and Talented

- Working above the minimum (core curriculum)
- Technologies

INNOVATIVE INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

- Special Education more likely to be included
- High schools tend to be college prep, but are under achieving (but research is only by measurement of test scores)
- Teaching style or style of school influence is more important than curriculum
- Teacher teaming & integrating (Math/Science/Humanities)
- Teachers planning their own schedules, prep time
- Service Learning
- Pairing middle school students

- with elementary students
- Integrating unexpected content areas (show calculus concept using an artist's style)

INNOVATIVE SCHOOL ORGANIZATION / GOVERNANCE

- Structure for decision making
- Calendar making / Daily schedule
- Professional development
- Parent involvement
- More likely to employ
 - focused instructional design
 - non-traditional grade and department configurations
 - Smaller classes
 - More time on task
 - Extended day & calendar (but not high schools)
- Customize support for struggling students, tailored support mentoring, family services
- Staffing—one team leader per grade:
 - attends state mentor training
 - expectations are higher
 - Compensated

- write weekly learning plan
- meet monthly w/each teacher on team
- collaborative meeting once a week during instructional time (specialists teach PE, Music, Library, Music)
- responsible for meeting agenda (turned in to administrator)
- responsible to be sure charter/state core implemented
- All teacher on grade levels have jobs:
 - specializing in content areas
 - o deep knowledge of core
 - outline/ideas for collaborative meeting to share to help w/planning (turned in to administrator)
 - Group plans core integration.
- Able to release ineffective teachers
- HS "Departments" are replaced by interdisciplinary teams (science, math, lang. arts, etc.)
- Small classroom sizes
- Relationships with students, parents, & community

HOW DO WE MEASURE INNOVATION?

Satisfaction?

• Effectiveness?

• Efficiency?

HOW DO / WILL WE SHARE INNOVATIONS?

- Have to collect the data first
- Weekly spot in the local paper
- Get to be friends with your local press
- Association's campaign
- It is going to take time
- Proof in waiting lists of students
- Show how it has affected students
- Post alumni "results"
- Working with Higher Ed. teacher programs

INNOVATION IS...

- It's the contextual, creative, unique combination of:
 - Something old
 - Something new
 - Something borrowed
 - Something through

