

Public Values Regarding Public Schools – What is the purpose of a public school?

- a. Public opinion
 - i. 2016 PDK poll on purpose of schools (prepare students academically, prepare students to be good citizens, prepare students for work), https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2016/08/29/why-do-kids-go-to-school-americans-are-divided-on-the-answer-a-new-poll-shows/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.22c6135d32dd
 - ii. 2017 PDK poll on what's important in schools, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2017/08/29/americans-express-support-for-traditional-public-schools-in-new-poll-even-as-trump-disparages-them/?utm_term=.8c54f6702787
 1. Racially and ethnically diverse student body
 2. Wraparound services (afterschool, mental and physical health)
 3. Vocational and career training programs
 4. Preparation for life and career after high school
 - b. Discussion
3. Purpose of Accountability Systems
 - a. Different perspectives (measuring student achievement, measuring school performance, creating a continuous improvement system, creating a shared definition of school quality and measuring school quality)
 - i. Education Commission of the States: <https://www.ecs.org/50-state-comparison-states-school-accountability-systems/>
 - ii. Center for American Progress: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-k-12/reports/2017/03/03/427156/a-new-vision-for-school-accountability/>
 - iii. Linda Darling Hammond, Stanford University: https://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Creating-Systems-for-Success_CO-LDH-Slides.pdf
 - iv. Jack Schneider, U of Massachusetts Lowell: <https://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Jack-Schneider-Accountability-Slides.pdf>
 - b. Discussion
 4. School Performance vs School Quality – What do we value? How should we measure it?
 - a. Different perspectives
 - i. University of Chicago research on what matters for HS and college success: https://toandthrough.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/UChiToThrough_Mythbusters_vWeb.pdf
 - ii. Inflexion and David Conley's research on life readiness: <https://www.inflexion.org/what-we-do/our-approach/readiness-for-all/#thinkknowactgo>
 - iii. Beyond Test Scores: A Better Way to Measure School Quality by Jack Schneider (Harvard Press):
 1. Inputs:
 - a. Teachers and the Teaching Environment - knowledge and skills of teachers, support for teacher development and growth, effective leadership

- b. School Culture - physical and emotional student safety, relationships, academic culture for valuing learning and challenge
- c. Resources - facilities, personnel, support staff, curriculum strength and variety, cultural inclusivity, extracurriculars, community support and partnerships

2. Outcomes:

- a. Academic learning - test score growth, performance based tasks/assessments/student products, student engagement in school and graduation rates, critical thinking, college and career readiness
- b. Character and well-being - civic engagement, work ethic and growth mindset, artistic and creative traits, physical and social-emotional health