Funding of Poor School Districts: The initiation of reform

By: Sabrina Ciccola
PLSC 497B-Spring 2004
Overview

- Where did ‘**No Child Left Behind**’ come from?
- Comparing ESEA of 1965 & NCLB of 2001
- Question at hand
- My Hypothesis
- Keywords used and Review of Methods
- Associations involved
- Important Dates to keep in mind
- Data
- Conclusions and possible data problems
Where did ‘No Child Left Behind’ come from?

- The original was ESEA of 1965: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 was a landmark education bill. Pres. Johnson’s Great Society changed the responsibility of funding school districts from local level to a national responsibility.

- Liberals and Conservatives have argued over the specifics of the act along with funding amounts. Disagreement in Congress led failure in renewal of the ESEA act in 2000.
ESEA of 1965 & NCLB of 2001

- **ESEA was meant to:**
  ~Help disadvantaged and low income children to be brought up to par with their peers through annual testing.
  ~Schools with chronic below average testing scores are required to provide supplement tutoring at public’s expense.

- Pres. Bush’s new education bill signed in 2002:
  ~Administration’s main legislative concern.
  ~Annual testing implemented.
  ~Student performance a stipulation to receive funding
  ~Additional services and supplemental tutoring changed as an expense of the schools’ funds.

__Education Reform__
The Question:

- Whether the changes that the government makes to education standards, are promoted by concern of the government and Dept. Of Ed? Or, does it become a movement infiltrated by local and state level communities?

- Considering the concept of social mobilization from a top down or a bottom up perspective support can be drawn for both arguments. There are examples of the Top down process having occurred along with data that conveys bottom up developing rates of social mobilization.
Hypothesis

- I believe there to be a strong development in the national society which then activates the movement to the local level.

- With national organization members distributing data from several socio-political analysts that add to the controversy on a local level, which is a more common process of social mobilization?
Keywords

For Assoc. Unlimited: Nat’l Interest Groups

- “Educational Funding” OR “Educational Reform” OR “Educational Testing” OR NEA

Media Attention

- School District Funding Disparities
- School District Funding Poverty
- Poverty and School Districts

Govt. Attention

- Policy Agendas Advanced Search: Elementary and Secondary Education
Keyword-Methods

- Keywords: Tried several different searches using words such as: Education(al) Funding Disparities, Poor School Districts and Education(al) Reform

- Could not use uniform keyword for each Govt., Media and Associations i.e.: For Govt. or Media Attn “NEA” would yield incorrect hits; For Media Attn Educational Reform would yield mostly hits of international education issues.
Methods

Govt. Attention:
- Policy Agendas Project
- Congressional Quarterly

Govt. Information:

Media Attention:
- New York Times Historical-ProQuest

Organizations:
- Gale-Associations Unlimited

Background Information:
- ProQuest Journals
- NEA website

(goto References)
39 Associations Active in 2004

Accuracy in Academia
Am. Assoc. of School Admin.
Alliance for the Separation of School and State
American Education Finance Assoc.
Armenian Educational Foundation
Amer. Federation of School Administrators
American Federation Teachers
Assoc. Supervision & Curriculum Dev
Better Chance
Bill Raskob Foundation
Center for School Change
Committee for Education Funding
Council for Aid to Education
Council for Resource Development
Council on Career Development for Minorities
Education Funding Research Council
Educational Planning Institute
Educational Records Bureau
Educational Testing Service
Family & Consumer Science Educ.Ass.

Henry M. Jackson Foundation
Nation's Report Card, National
Asses. of Educational Progress
Nat'l Academy of Am. Scholars
National Academy of Teaching
Nat'l Assoc. Elementary School Principals
Nat'l Ass. Federally Impacted School
Nat'l Assoc. Student Financial Aid Admin
Nat'l Association of Test Directors
Nat'l Center for Fair & Open Testing
Nat'l Center for Research on Evaluation Standards, and Student Testing
Nat'l Council Measurement in Education
Nat'l Council of Urban Education Assoc.
National Education Association
NEA Fndn for Improvement of Education
Secondary School Admission Test Board
Teaching for Change
The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation
Thomas B. Fordham Foundation
Van Andel Education Institute
The National Education Association (NEA) was founded in 1857; one of the first known org. to drive the ideas of educational quality and improvement on a national level.

Sound Familiar? Pres. Johnson’s Great Society

According to the org. the policy and reform it pursues as an organization comes from its members during conferences.
Important Dates:

- **1965** Elementary and Secondary Education Act debated in Congress, passed in 1966 (ESEA)

- **1983** “Nation At Risk,” Former President George Bush indicates there is cause to worry about schools.

- **2001** President G.W. Bush passes the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
Media Coverage

NY Times: Poverty and School Districts
## Founding and Density Dates

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Assoc. Density vs. Media Attn.

Dates: 10 yr. intervals

Totals per year

Density

NYT Coverage
NY Times: Poverty and School Districts
Cong'l Hearings: Elementary and Secondary Education
Attention Trends in Congress and the Media: Education Issues

Source: Policy Agendas Project, Center for American Politics and Public Policy, University of Washington.
Media Coverage vs. Gov’t Attention

- Hearings:
  - Policy
  - Agenda Proj.

- N.Y.T.
  - General Subj. of Education

Media vs. Gov't vs. Public Laws

Year Intervals

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Total per Interval

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800
Data can be obtained from the Policy Agendas Project, Center for American Politics and Public Policy, University of Washington.
Conclusions

- It appears that the Government Attention to events occur as a result of Media attention to the issues of Education.

- Resulting in an uproar by Media attention amongst the citizens that read the publicized issues from interest groups and surveys of data on educational testing, funding, standards and reform.

- Naturally, there is a correlation between Media and Congressional Attention considering the Media would pay attention to an issue Congress is concerned with or Congress would pay attention to an issue the Media and thus Citizens are concerned about.
Possible Research Problems

- **Congressional Attention:**
  * Use of Policy Agendas Project may have more issues to the education topic I chose but coded it differently.
  * Did not find info prior to 1965 on Elementary and Secondary Education.

- **Media Attention:**
  * There may be overrepresentation of the keywords I chose, I search much of it via abstracts by each year, some may not have been relevant.

- **The Encyclopedia of Associations:**
  * I had to search through many different keywords to try to have all the organizations yet I may have missed some organizations.
Bibliography


- Harris, Ron. “Schools Find Higher Standards mean more retentions, dropouts, new federal law could add to the pressures: [Five Star Late Lift Ed]” The St. Louis Post Dispatch. June 8, 2003 p. A1


- National Education Association: www.nea.org/sea


