



Just the Facts

School Leaders

- ◆ Experts agree principals serving as instructional leaders are critical to helping teachers form teams and rally around teaching approaches. – *Pioneer Press*, August 31, 2007
- ◆ Principals' relationships matter. Principal relationship measurement questions include:
 - Does the principal know students by name?
 - Is the principal present in classrooms?
 - Does the principal regularly interact with students and staff?

P-16 education

- ◆ Nine states mandate that full-day kindergarten be offered.
- ◆ Louisiana and West Virginia require their children to be enrolled in full-day kindergarten.
- ◆ Sixty percent of American children are enrolled in full-day public or private kindergarten programs.
- ◆ “The new vision for Minnesota’s high schools should be to prepare every student to earn a credential or a degree at a postsecondary educational institution—whether it is a technical school, two-year college, or four-year college or university.” – *The Bridge to Higher Learning*, June 2007
- ◆ The education reform known as P-16 is intended to provide greater continuity to students’ entire school career and entry into the work force. – P-16 Education, *Phi Delta Kappan*, March 2008
- ◆ P-16 education usually involves enhancing preparation for college through a rigorous high school curriculum, aligning high school graduation requirements with postsecondary admissions, and strengthening teacher preparation programs and professional development for veteran instructors so that every classroom has a highly qualified teacher. – P-16 Education, *Phi Delta Kappan*, March 2008

Cause for Pause

- ◆ According to a study led by Dr. Philip Shaw, a psychiatrist at the National Institute of Mental Health and reported in the *Proceedings of the National Academy Sciences*, children with attention deficit disorders suffer primarily from a delay in brain development, not from a deficit or flaw.
- ◆ A study of 16,000 children indicates that kindergartners who are identified as *troubled* do as well academically in elementary school as do their peers. – *The New York Times*, November 13, 2007, *Bad Behavior Does Not Doom Pupils, Studies Say*, Benedict Carey

Parenting

- ◆ The United States ranks highest in the world in the number of single-parent households.
- ◆ Mothers spend 13 hours a week on average on child care regardless of whether they work outside the home or are stay-at-home mothers. In contrast, in 1965 mothers averaged 10 hours on child care. – Darcie Vandegrift, Drake University, *The School Administrator, What's Not Wrong With the American Family*, September, 2007
- ◆ Fathers currently spend an average of seven hours per week on child care as compared to three hours in the 1960s. – Darcie Vandegrift, Drake University, *The School Administrator, What's Not Wrong With the American Family*, September, 2007

Public Perceptions (taken from the 39th Annual PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools—Lowel C. Rose and Alec M. Gallup)

- ◆ Knowledge about NCLB among the public has increased from 45 percent (those who feel they know a fair amount or great deal about NCLB) in 2006 to 54 percent in 2007.
- ◆ The percent of people with an unfavorable opinion about NCLB has gone up over the past year from 31 percent in 2006 to 40 percent in 2007.
- ◆ 68 percent of the public believes NCLB in its current form is either making no difference or hurting the schools.
- ◆ Among those who know a great deal or fair amount about NCLB, 56 percent blame the law for schools' failure to meet NCLB requirement.
- ◆ 70 percent of the public believes standardized testing is either making no difference or that it is hurting the schools.
- ◆ 82 percent of respondents believe that measuring improvement shown by students would be the best way to measure a school's performance (as opposed to the number passing the state test).

Communications

- ◆ Focus groups* remain a great way of getting qualitative information about stakeholder perceptions and expectations. School districts and other organizations have used focus to assess ongoing progress and support. Additionally, focus groups have been used by Minnesota school districts in the following situations:
 - Facility planning
 - Referenda campaign planning
 - District/school planning
 - Community education planning
 - Budget adjustment
 - Superintendent selection

*If you would like additional information about the potential, parameters, process, value, and outcomes of focus groups contact sprest@arkassoc.com and write "Champions for Children" in the subject line.

Tax Talk

- ◆ Here's a general summary of where Minnesota taxes rank nationally according to Pat Kessler on *Reality Check*, WCCO TV, March 11, 2008. The ranking is based on a combination of the Tax Foundation's rankings and the Minnesota Department of Revenue rankings.
 - gasoline – 27th
 - state/local – 11th
 - state/local/federal – 11th

- per capita – 12th
- state/local percent of personal income – 20th
- state/local/federal percent of personal income – 39th
- sales tax per capita – 17th
- sales tax percent of income – 25th
- income tax per capita – 7th

Congratulations (please submit any congratulations you think should be included to sprest@arkassoc.com)

- ◆ Minneapolis Public Schools Patrick Henry High School was rated by the *Washington Post 2007 Challenge Index* as among the top three percent of all public high schools nationally.
- ◆ Mark Robertson, Fridley superintendent, is the 2008 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year.
- ◆ Dr. Kathleen Alvig, principal at Northrop Urban Environmental School, was named 2008 Science and Mathematics Elementary and Middle Level Principal of the Year by MESPA.
- ◆ Joan Franks, principal at Armatage Community and Montessori School, was identified as a finalist for MESPA's Minnesota National Distinguished Principal Award.
- ◆ Ronald Johnson, principal of Hutchinson Senior High School, was named the 2008 Minnesota High School Principal of the Year.
- ◆ Pat Schmidt, principal of Hopkins North Junior High School, is the 2008 Minnesota Middle Level Principal of the Year.
- ◆ Bob Whitman, executive director of community education and community relations for Robbinsdale Area Schools, was named the National Community Educator of the Year.

Red Flags

- ◆ After 15 consecutive years of growth, the number of college applicants is expected to level off next year and then begin to decline. – *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, March 25, 2008
- ◆ Consumers spent \$9.7 billion at movie theaters and \$23 billion on DVDs last year, according to the National Endowment for the Arts report, yet often failed to adequately fund public education.
- ◆ Reading for pleasure is declining, especially among teenagers.
- ◆ Hunger is a problem for 11% of American families.
- ◆ Over 30,000 U.S. children were neglected or abused in the first week of life in 2006.
- ◆ Over 90,000 U.S. children were neglected or abused in the first year of life in 2006.
- ◆ Children in poverty at age three have one half the vocabularies of those children who are not in poverty. Vocabulary correlates to reading comprehension as children get older.
- ◆ Scores on math tests at ages 5 or 6 are highly correlated with academic success in fifth grade. – *The New York Times*, November 13, 2007, *Bad Behavior Does Not Doom Pupils*, *Studies Say*, Benedict Carey
- ◆ Students who change schools more than three times before the 8th grade are at least 4 times more likely to drop out of school than those who do not.
- ◆ Students that move more often than three times in a six-year period fall one full academic year behind their peers who do not move.

Quotes and Quotables

Leadership

- ◆ “Management by objective works—if you know the objectives.” – Peter Drucker
- ◆ “People can’t be managed; people must be led.” – H. Ross Perot
- ◆ “He who praises everybody, praises nobody.” – Samuel Johnson
- ◆ “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” – John F. Kennedy
- ◆ “Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you help them become what they are capable of being.” – Goethe
- ◆ “The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves.” – Ray Kroc
- ◆ “Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in actions.” – Harold S. Geneen
- ◆ “Good leadership consists of showing average people how to do the work of superior people.” – John D. Rockefeller
- ◆ “Trust men and they will be true to you; treat them greatly and they will show themselves great.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson
- ◆ “The desk is a dangerous place from which to watch the world.” – John le Carre
- ◆ “You cannot be a leader, and ask other people to follow you, unless you know how to follow, too.” – Sam Rayburn

Citizenship

- ◆ “If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world.” – Francis Bacon
- ◆ “Even the hint of prejudice of any type has no place in a well-run organization.” – Fred A. Manske, Jr.
- ◆ “You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.” – Abraham Lincoln
- ◆ “Civilization is a method of living—an attitude of equal respect for all men.” – Jane Adams

Progress

- ◆ “It is wise to direct your anger towards problems—not people; to focus your energies on answers—not excuses.” – William Arthur Ward
- ◆ “Is there anything worse than being blind? Yes a man with sight and no vision.” – Helen Keller
- ◆ “Restlessness and discontent are the necessities of progress.” – Thomas Edison

Communication

- ◆ “A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.” – Mark Twain
- ◆ “We have two ears and one tongue so that we would listen more and talk less.” – Diogenes
- ◆ “Understanding is a two-way street.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

Education

- ◆ “We should take care not to make the intellect our god; it has, of course, powerful muscles, but no personality.” – Albert Einstein
- ◆ “Ability is what you’re capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.” – Lou Holtz

Red Flags

- ◆ “Until school reformers acknowledge the importance of nonschool influences, they will keep on imposing policies that are unfair to teachers and principals and ignoring policies that could make a difference.” Ann C. Lewis, *Phi Delta Kappan, Washington Commentary*, February, 2008

Just for fun

- ◆ “I often quote myself. It adds spice to my conversation.” – George Bernard Shaw
- ◆ “The world is filled with willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them.” – Robert Frost
- ◆ “Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain, and most fools do.” – Benjamin Franklin
- ◆ “I do not like work even when someone else does it.” – Mark Twain
- ◆ “The bigger a man’s head gets, the easier it is to fill his shoes.” – Henry A. Courtney



These materials are provided by:
Minnesota Association of School Administrators
Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals
Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

To request more information contact the above organizations or sprest@arkassoc.com