



Gated (School) Communities

The effects of privatization in K-12 education

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2 approaches to privatization in education:

1. The external, conceptual notion of education
2. The internal, content-based elements of education

Privatization in K-12

- Privatization of expectations
- Privatization of infrastructure
- Privatization of role (individual choice vs. collective vision)
- Privatization of assessment
- Privatization of opportunity (and options)
- Privatization of content

Privatization of expectations

- Using the language of the workplace or the economy to describe the learning process and the education system.
- Market measures, the language of “return on investment”
- When the market is the measure, who becomes the experts?

Privatization of infrastructure

- Hidden (and not-so-hidden) costs of P3s
- What does the research say (and who doesn't seem to care?)

Privatization of role (individual choice vs. collective vision)

- Public schools adopting consumer-based tactics to compete for students who offer a good “return on investment” (streaming, boutique programs, charter schools, vouchers).
- Public funding for private schools
- What are the implications of reinforcing the privilege inherent in a choice-based model (two-tiered)?
- Implications for school boards, local democracy, and broad parental engagement?

Privatization of assessment

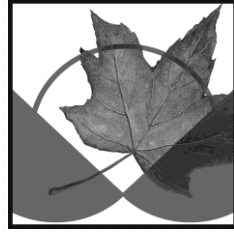
- Standardized testing: what do they really measure? How are they used?
- What are the implications of ranking schools?
- What are the implications for teachers?

Privatization of opportunity (and options)

- When funding formulas are flawed and do not meet the needs of kids, what happens?
- Divide “essentials” from “enhancements”
- What do people fundraise (or charge user fees) for, and whose education is enhanced accordingly?
- What happens when the donor is a corporation?

Privatization of content

- How is privatization internalized?
- What's the role (and what's behind) financial literacy or entrepreneurial programs?



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