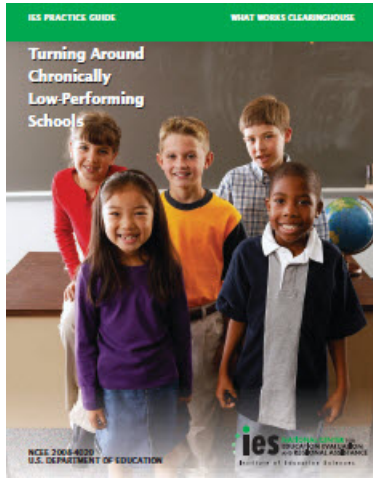


Discussion questions for February 2010

Main interview:



1. The key question of this interview is this: what should be done with chronically underperforming schools. What do you think?
2. How serious are school districts in changing the failure of their schools, given that most continue to fail year after year?
3. Should states ever use the nuclear option (i.e., closing the school entirely and allowing students free enrollment anywhere else)? Under what conditions?
4. Nancy Sellers talks about teachers who care enough about the school to pick trash. Is that feeling present in your schools?

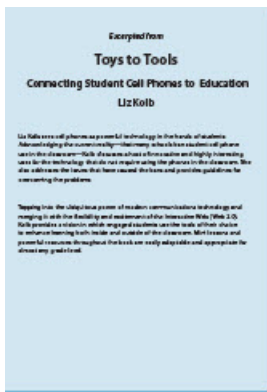
The Learning Point:

5. The Learning Point this month focuses on "Retaining Teacher Talent" How can your district make teaching there more attractive to potential teacher candidates? How does Generation Y teachers differ from previous generations in your eyes?



Updates:

6. Ian Jukes believes that it is essential to incorporate technology into the daily practices of the schools. What do you think? Should you be incorporating cell phones more into assigned projects? What do you see as the benefits and drawbacks?



Discussion points:

7. Do parents have a right to know how the school district compares to others statewide and nationally? How would you grade your own district report card for clarity and usefulness?

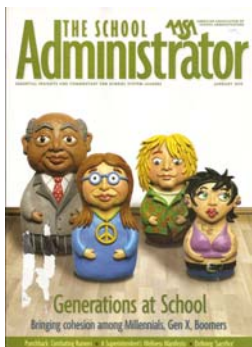
8. A new report suggests that accelerated or advanced students do better in their own math track. Do you agree?

9. Teach for America says that "grit" or perseverance is an essential characteristic of the successful inner city teacher. How would you identify "grit" and what would you look for in a potential candidate?



Articles:

10. Is communicating with new teachers a "challenge"? Do they have a different sense of motivation and communication, as one article this month suggests?



Final Word:

11: Dr. James says that we are modeling a world that will not exist for our students. Do you agree?