
Student to teacher ratio: Small class sizes have appositive effect on the academic achievement of learners. Even though we can't only measure the success of students by the size of a classroom, I think that it is safe to say that it is a large contributing factor. Teachers are able to spend more time with each learner, which directly influences their academic performance. In larger classrooms teachers often struggle with classroom management and giving each learner individual attention.

Discipline of students: Indiscipline makes students lose focus on educational goals which are achieved through hard-work, time management, respect for others and self-determination. This implies that disciplined students are more likely to remain focused on their academic goals, manage their time well, work harder and show determination to succeed.

Lack of resources: According to the Hypertext, one in four South African schools do not offer Mathematics as a subject for grades 10 to 12 due to lack of educational resources. Lack of resources will prevent schools from getting the appropriate study materials and technology which will ultimately prevent learners from reaching their full potential. Lack of resources will force teachers to become creative in their teaching methods so that they are able to help learners grasp and understand the subjects.

Safety of the school: School Safety is important to protect both learner and teacher from abuse or any kind of violence at school. Creating an environment that doesn't consist of fear and aggression is important to make student and teachers feel safe in their learning community without factors that interrupts the learning and teaching process. As a result, the student and teacher feels safe and thrives.

Question 2

2.1

- Lack of resources
- Lack of study materials like textbooks and novels
- Financial position
- Lack of parental support
- Support given to the school by community
- Community child care
- Safety of the school
- Discipline of students
- Violence at school
- Student to teacher ratio

2.2

Violence at school: The effects of school violence on students and teachers are major. Students exposed to violence at school may drop-out of school prematurely because they don't feel safe or they're too traumatized to go back. I think that it is nearly impossible for a child to concentrate on school tasks and learning when they're experiencing violence at school on a regular basis, this will have a negative effect on their academic performance and their test scores. Violence towards teachers, be it physical, psychological, from a student or parent, effects the teacher's ability to do their job. It may affect the teacher's ability to manage the class. The teacher may not want to present the class with a lesson because of fear of being hurt. I think in situations like these it is important for the teacher to not feel alone, they should be able to talk to a trusted colleague or a mentor.

1.4 In my talk will be discussing the benefits of a PLC at school for both learners and teachers.

a) This PLC will be a safe space where we as teachers will be able to share ideas, goals and mentor each other. There are many benefits to a PLC, for us as educators, they are: PLC help build strong relationships between team members, for a PLC it is important that all members work together for the success of their grade and school. This will also build a better sense of community between teachers, most of the time teachers feel isolated in their classrooms but with this teachers will come together with all colleagues and make decisions collaboratively. This PLC will give an opportunity for us to access each other's strengths and the benefit of that is that we can replicate that success to better ourselves as professionals. This PLC will improve teacher performance, by combining your own knowledge with that of your colleague and of technology. More satisfaction and higher morale, and lower rates of absenteeism.

b) The benefits of this PLC for students is that they will have readiness for test and exam periods because of the efficient work that teachers will be doing to prepare them for this period. High-quality student learning is achieved in classrooms through authentic pedagogy (Instruction and assessment), and students of all social backgrounds benefit equally, regardless of race, gender, or family income. Lower rates of absenteeism. There will be smaller achievement gaps between students from different backgrounds. Decreased dropout rates and students cutting class. There will be improved engagement in classrooms between learner and teacher.

Question 2

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Question 1

1.1 My understanding of a PLC is, it provides spaces for teachers to share innovative ideas with experienced teachers and mentor young teachers. This allows teachers to learn from each other to enhance teaching quality while they work together to achieve a common goal for their grade and their school. PLCs have helped teachers learn together as they rethink their practice, challenge existing assumptions about instruction and re-examine their students' learning needs

1.2 Learning, Collaboration and Results

1.3 Learning – The staff will learn from each other and work as a team. Teachers can learn from each other in different ways by, sharing ideas about teaching techniques, teachers can also learn by asking for help from a fellow teacher, principle or grade-head. Educators can learn by attending teaching conferences and professional meetings as part of development. Educators can learn how to utilize technology to their advantage to bring a new and exciting way of teaching into the classroom.

Collaboration – it is an ongoing process. When teachers come together on ideas, information and share resources, it becomes effective and accessible for students. Having teachers collaborate will help prevent professional loneliness and frustration and this will give a teacher a sense of belonging. Technology plays a big role in teacher collaboration, teachers can form forums online and talk to teachers from across the globe. Recording lessons to reflect on teaching techniques and it can also be used as a tool to mentor young teachers. When being introduced with new curriculum materials that no one is familiar with, it would be to the teachers benefit to collaborate and link their work so that they are able to master the new curriculum

Results – In order to monitor results educators and administrators have to keep data on initiative and programmes. It is important that these results are shared to monitor which programmes are improving teaching quality. The results may indicate which initiatives teachers should focus on more. These results can also help the school not to focus on the low results but the success and strive to replicate that success.

BPT 1501 ASSIGNMENT 3

Course:

Being a professional teacher (BPT1501)

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL STUDIES
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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