

THE QUALITIES OF A MORE EFFECTIVE SCHOOL (In New York City)

A More Effective School is qualitatively different from other comparable schools because it contains the following teaching and learning conditions:

- A school register of 1,000 or less.
- Class registers with a maximum of 22 Kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classes have a maximum of 15 with two licensed teachers available.
- Each group of three classes has an additional teacher who is part of the cluster of the three classes (Cluster Teacher). She is a classroom teacher who shares equally in the responsibilities of the cluster and provides the coverage so that each teacher in the cluster may have a daily preparation period. She is an organic part of the cluster team, frequently teaching in the classroom with one of the other teachers.
- School secretaries are provided on the ratio of one full-time secretary for every 250 children.

- School guidance counselors are provided on the ratio of one for every 350 children.
- OTPs (Other Teaching Positions) are provided, mainly to train and work as a team with classroom teachers. The OTP teacher is programmed to work with individual children or small groups, to assist the classroom teacher by providing the services and the techniques as such may be needed and to carry out other functions as outlined in their job analysis programs.
- Teacher Aide time by parents is provided on the ratio of one hour per day per 20 children to free teachers from non-teaching chores.
- Special funds for additional supplies, above what is budgeted for the regular schools, are allowed on the ratio of \$25 for each child.
- A yearly special contingency fund is provided on the ratio of \$2.50 per pupil. This fund may be used as the needs of the school develop.
- A full-time psychologist, social worker, attendance

- teacher, health counselor, community coordinator, and speech therapist are assigned to each More Effective School.
- A psychiatrist is provided on the same basis of one for each four ME Schools.
- Additional medical and dental services are provided. The MES Program is trying to obtain from the Health Department a full-time medical and dental team.
- Money has been set aside for teacher orientation before the opening of an MES school. Such training is also provided during the school year.
- Weekly conference time is provided, during school hours, for cluster and grade meetings.
- Supervisors are offered special seminars (during school hours) by colleges as opportunities to exchange ideas, evaluate practices, and evolve new approaches to supervision and teaching in More Effective Schools.
- The principals of the ME Schools meet monthly, on a seminar basis, so that some range of acceptable over-all

school management, supervision, and administration guidelines may be developed for such ME Schools, based on honest democratic involvement of the total staff as outlined in the original plan.

- Each ME School is permitted a great deal of latitude and opportunity for a fluid flexible approach to school and class organization, largely to be determined by the specific needs and development in each of the schools.
- The total cost per child for the above improvements is estimated to be about \$218.

It is to the credit of New York City that its educational authorities adopted the above plan in 1964. There are now enough indices to point to the success of this program in terms of pupil achievement: reduction in school and classroom tensions; in an increase in teacher, pupil, and parent morale; and in greater community interest and participation.

good intentions are not enough

Neither is a mere recognition of the problems facing our deteriorating public school systems. There must be a collective will to do something to solve our educational problems. Such collective will must be created, organized, vitalized and directed by concerned, knowledgeable dedicated community leaders representing all segments of the community. Such event must take place to the end that Effective Schools will exist for all children, especially for the underprivileged.

Now is the time to organize and fight for such schools. Delay is unthinkable

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