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Research exercise: Syntheses of Research on Evaluation of p - 12 Teachers

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Reforming Teacher Evaluation

Name: Emily Ferguson, Steph Lutz, Sarah Sercu, and Danny Zillich
Advisors: Professor Susan Ferguson and Dr. Katie Kinnucan-Welsch

Research objective: To understand ways in which teacher evaluation can be reformed.

Tenure and Teacher Evaluation
Emily Ferguson

How are tenure and teacher reform connected in today’s movements for education reform in the United States?

- Tenure and teacher evaluation are closely connected reform issues. Therefore, tenure reform can only be built on a solid foundation provided by a good teacher evaluation system.
- An effective teacher evaluation system can only be developed through the implementation of standards.

Professionalism in the Field of Education
Steph Lutz

What are some prevalent examples of a lack of professionalism among teachers, and what are tips and action plans to maintain professionalism among teachers?

- Rules and regulations should be developed regarding social networking sites and students and teachers.
- Teachers should understand or look for guidance when handling a situation with their student that has become inappropriate.

Improving and Ensuring Teacher Quality
Sarah Sercu

What can be done to improve and ensure teacher quality?

- Reform the way teachers enter the profession through the use of “residencies” or “trial periods”.
- Provide a support network or mentoring program so practicing teachers can collaborate and share ideas with their colleagues.

Evaluation for the Future
Danny Zillich

What are the implications of teacher evaluations in schools?

- Implement a teacher evaluation system in order to provide a better education for students through the works of students and principals.
- Students, teachers, and parents will all be impacted when installing a teacher evaluation system.

Our Conclusions:
Based on our research, we have come to many conclusions about teacher evaluation and its reform. Teacher evaluation is a multifaceted subject, as it can be looked at through the lens of its connection to tenure, teacher appropriateness, the retainment of qualified teachers, and its impact on everyone involved in a school community. Our conclusions have helped us develop our recommendations for the future of education and teacher evaluation.