Research exercise: Research on the Relationship between Policy and Practice in p-12 Schools

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The Relationship Between Policy and Practice
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The Progression of School Lunches
• School lunch programs have been implemented in the United States since as early as 1890, but women organizations and charitable groups primarily ran the programs.
• After the Great Depression, the New Deal proposed to use farm surpluses to donate to schools.
• Even after the Great Depression, the government still wanted to use the surpluses to donate to schools, so they enacted the National School Lunch Act.
• According to federal law, “school lunches must provide one-third and school breakfasts one-quarter of the Recommended Dietary Allowances for calories, protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium and iron” in order to qualify for federal reimbursements.
• The government has very little regulation over products sold in vending machines and A La Carte lines.

Censorship and Education
Ways Censorship is Seen in Education:
• Supreme Court Rulings
• Censored Books
• Internet Filters
• Ways that are Not Overt

Advantages of Censorship:
• Eliminates Inappropriate or Unsuitable Material
• Educates Moral Generations of the Future
• Increases Productivity

Disadvantages of Censorship:
• Arbitrary Nature of Censorship
• Restricts Intellectual Freedom
• Eliminates Material that could Potentially Enhance Education

Teaching Banned Books
• In order to help parents and school administrators to understand the educational value of teaching sensitive topics/ banned books in the classroom, teachers should develop a rationale to explain why they choose to teach or discuss such topics in the classroom.
• To help minimize conflict, teachers should maintain clear and consistent communication with those who oppose the books or topics addressed in the classroom.
• In the case that the teachers face opposition in their choice to teach controversial books, they can seek support from unions and other affiliated groups.
• Even if they choose to break or bend the rules, teachers should be aware of any district policies regarding teaching banned books.

In order to help parents and school administrators to understand the educational value of teaching sensitive topics/ banned books in the classroom, teachers should develop a rationale to explain why they choose to teach or discuss such topics in the classroom.