Research exercise: Research on the Effect that Teacher Education Standards have on Teacher Formation in the United States and Finland

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Contributors to the Current Retention Rate of Teachers

• Poor school climate and working conditions
• Lack of administrative support and acknowledgement
• New accountability standards and an increased emphasis on standardized test scores
• More likelihood to leave if higher academic achievement, female, math/science, secondary education
• Lack of influence with students

Teacher Education: Finland vs. United States

• Finland outranks the United States in international student assessments, such as the PISA. Teacher education is a factor in Finland’s success.
• Finland prizes teaching as a profession, thus only the top students get into teacher education programs.
• Structures in teacher education programs differ between the United States and Finland. Finland spends more time in practical experience than the United States.
• Finland expects a continued research and obtain master’s degrees.

Teachers Affected by Common Core State Standards

• Some teacher creativity in lesson plans has been lost.
• Need for more professional development to help teachers navigate the new standards.
• Pre-service teachers need to be taught the standards immediately to avoid being rushed like current teachers are.
• Hasty implementation of the new standards leads to teachers feeling too rushed to carry out the lessons to the best of their ability.
• New testing of the Common Core does not allow teachers an adequate amount of time to assess the areas for improvement and adjust lessons.