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Chapter 1

A Bridge to Halfway There

Introduction

THIS BOOK DESCRIBES A plan that has already demonstrated its effectiveness in bringing about significant changes in schooling. The plan, entitled the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM), is a systematic set of specific strategies for increasing student effort, enjoyment, and performance, and for integrating a broad range of advanced level learning experiences and higher order thinking skills into any curricular area, course of study, or pattern of school organization. The general approach of the SEM is one of infusing more effective practices into existing school structures rather than layering on additional things for schools to do. This research-supported plan is designed for general education, but it is based on a large number of instructional methods and curricular practices that had their origins in special programs for high ability students.

Everyone has a stake in schools that provide all of our young people with a high-quality education. Parents benefit when their children lead happy and successful lives. Employers and colleges benefit when they have access to people who are competent, creative, and effective in the work they do and in higher educational pursuits. Political leaders benefit when good citizens and a productive population

The cumulative effect of the test score decline on standards of living is quite large. The social cost is now [1989] \$86 billion annually....If the forecasted shortfalls in output up to the year 2010 are cumulated..., the total present discounted costs of the test score decline is \$3.2 trillion or roughly three-fourths of the 1987 gross national product.

John H. Bishop, 1989

Chapter 2

as an *infusion approach* to systemic school improvement, and the main targets of the change process are those factors that have a direct bearing on the process of learning.

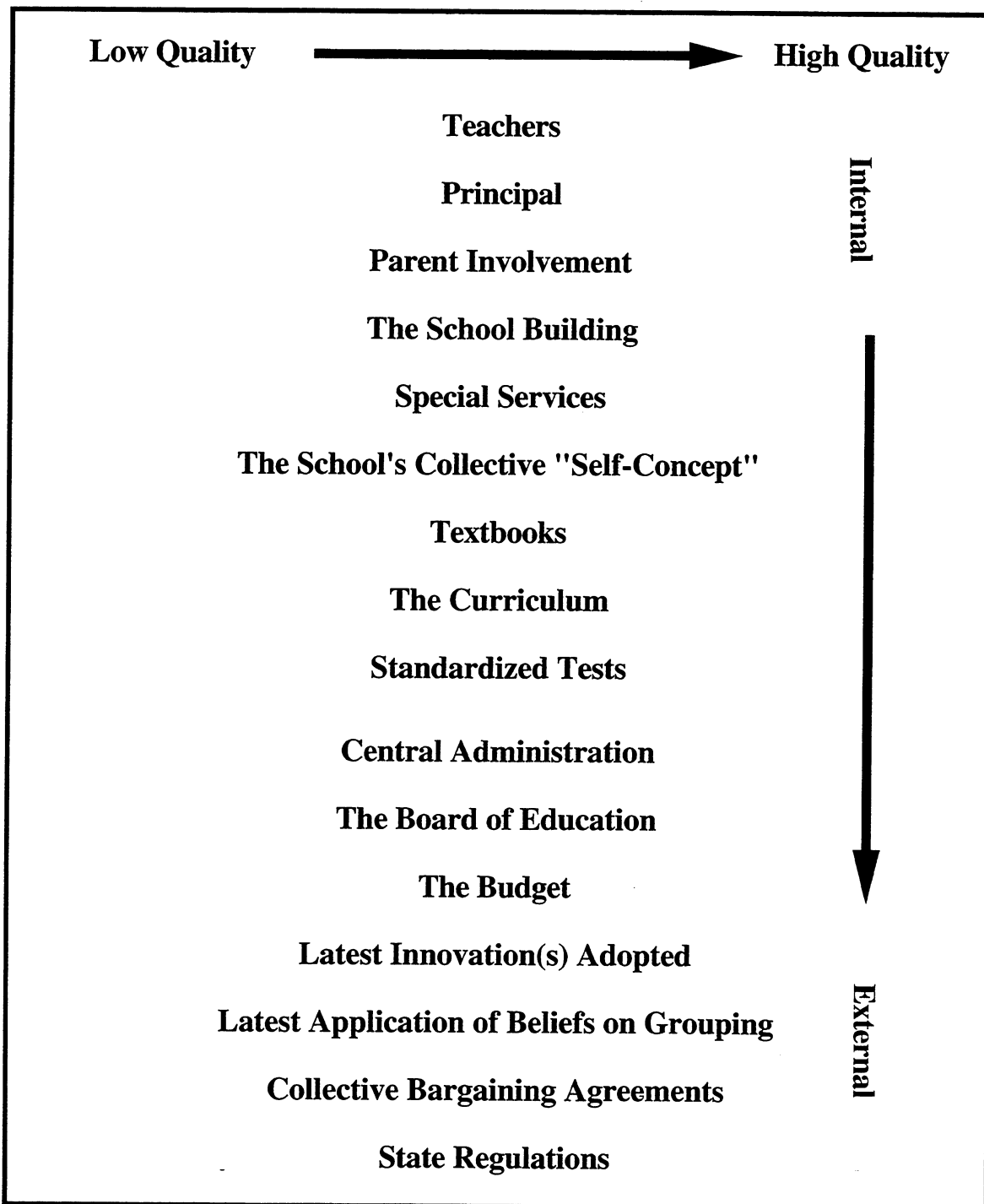


Figure 2. Factors affecting the quality of learning.