

Contents

The Research	1
The Mission	2
The Vision	3
The Quality	8
Conclusion.....	13
Bibliography.....	14

The Research

It's time we stopped pretending not to know. We know. Teachers make *the* difference, not *a* difference in the academic success of the learner. The verdict is in. The quality of the teacher is inextricably linked to student achievement. There is abundant and overwhelmingly consistent testimony from the experts:

Teacher quality is on the national agenda as never before. Finally, there is widespread recognition of the fact that the teacher is the single most important school-based determinant of student learning. That fact accords not only with every parent's common sense, but also, with research.

Arthur E. Wise
President, National Council for
Accreditation of Teacher
Education
(1999, p. 68)

The best way to increase student academic achievement is to put qualified and quality-minded teachers in classrooms... California policymakers and educators have determined that investing in teachers, and providing a tool to examine teaching over time, is the path to increase success for students and teachers alike.

Olebe, Jackson and Danielson
Consultants, California
Formative Assessment and
Support System for Teachers
(1999, p. 44)

The evidence is just so overwhelming. When kids have very ineffective teachers—especially if they catch multiple (poor teachers)—they never recover.

W. L. Sanders
 Director, Value Added Research
 and Assessment Center,
 University of Tennessee at
 Knoxville
 (quoted in Bradley, 1999, p. 47)

The Mission

The case for teacher quality is astonishingly clear. An imperative is on the educational agenda! It dictates investment in the recruitment, preparation, professional development, recognition and appreciation of the career teacher (see Figure 1). Investment involves the need to focus on recruiting the best and the brightest with inviting career paths and substantial compensation packages. Investment means on-going career incentives and systems that recognize and reward quality work. Investment encompasses pre-service reform in the schools of education and mentoring programs that provide novices in the field with meaningful, on-going support.



Figure 1. Educational Agenda Imperative: Teacher Quality