

The 'Taboo' Topic of Poverty

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Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska's Youth

Activity

- Think of a child/ren that is/are important to you
- Use the bag of materials you were given, NO sharing, no trading, you can only use what you were given.
- Draw or write words that would define SUCCESS for the child/ren you are thinking about, in other words, how will you know they have succeeded?
- You have 5 minutes!



A black and white photograph of Mahatma Gandhi, shirtless and wearing his characteristic round glasses. He is looking down and slightly to the left, with a contemplative or somber expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

"POVERTY IS THE WORST FORM OF VIOLENCE."

MAHATMA GANDHI

 Lifehack Quotes



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Key points

- Brain prioritizes survival first
- Stresses like poverty, (without some resiliency factors) can lead to measurable changes and deficits in brain development.



Long term effects of poverty

- Increased risk for:
 - Childhood ADHD
 - Alcohol dependence and drug addiction
 - Explosive disorder
 - Major depression
 - PTSD



Opportunities

- Better nutrition-→ school breakfast and lunches
- After school and summer programs
- Intentional focus on building protective factors

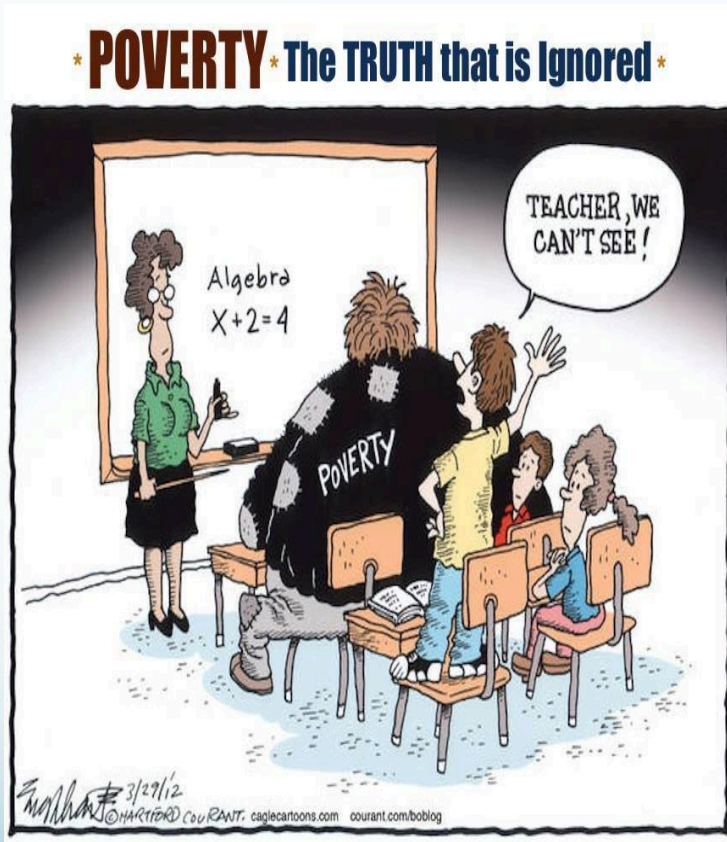


- Schools can disrupt the cycle of poverty



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7 practices that are critical to student achievement for those in poverty



- Curriculum & Instruction
- Increase instructional time
- Investment in PD for teachers
- Systems to monitor student performance
- Parental involvement
- Accountability systems
- Use of assessment



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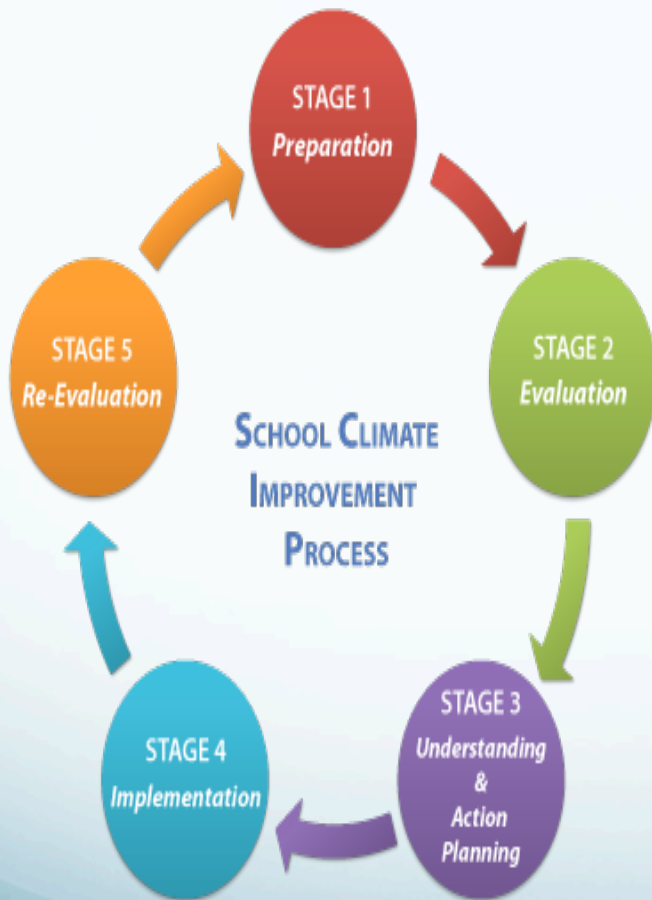
8 practices for improvement

- District leadership
 - Engage families and communities
- HIGH expectations for poor and culturally diverse students
- Target low-performing students; start with reading
 - Align, monitor and manage curriculum
 - Create a culture of data and assessment
 - Build and sustain instructional capacity
 - Reorganize time, space and transitions



Alter the environment

- Change the school environment
- Reduce the parallels with prison.
 - Reduce homework stress by incorporating time for homework in class or right after class.
 - Use cooperative structures
- Help students blow off steam by incorporating celebrations, role-plays, and physical activities
- Incorporate kinesthetic arts



Empower students

- Help students increase their perception of control over their environment
- Introducing conflict resolution skills.
- Teaching students how to deal with anger and frustration
- Introducing responsibilities and the value of giving restitution.
- Teaching students to set goals to focus on what they want.



- Role-modeling how to solve real-world problems.
- Giving students a weekly life problem to solve collectively.
- Teaching social skills.
- Introducing stress reduction techniques

5 WAYS
to HELP STUDENTS
AFFECTED BY POVERTY:

- love them
- expose them to experiences
- give plenty of praise
- don't ask for money
- keep expectations high

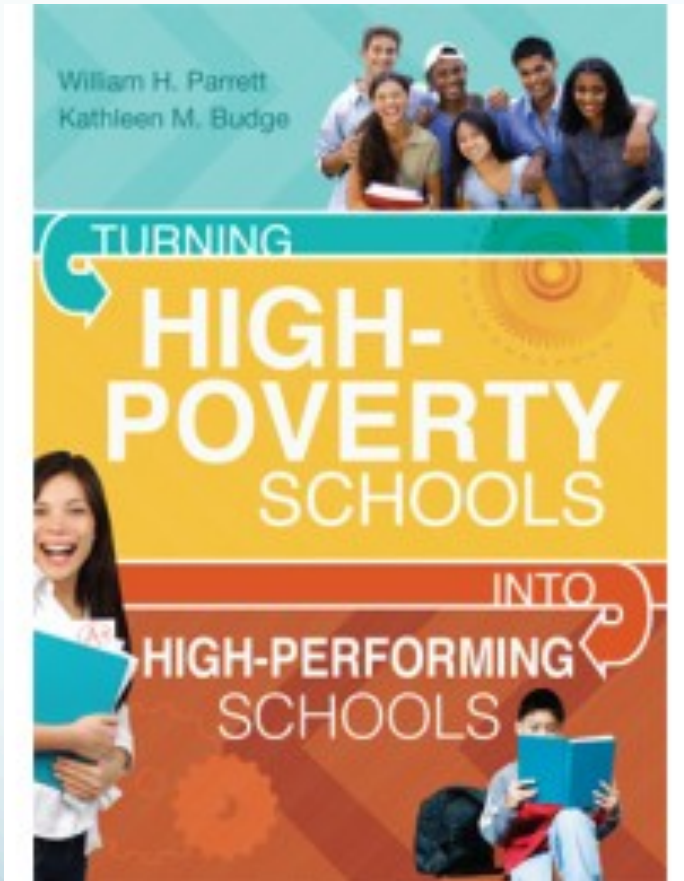
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Thanks for coming!

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