



Assessing and Evaluating Teacher Preparation Programs

A project sponsored by
The Coalition for Psychology in Schools and Education
and the
Board of Educational Affairs

Why Should APA Be Involved?

We psychologists hold expertise in:

- Research methodology, measurement and evaluation
- Teaching and learning
- Education policy
- Leadership of teacher preparation programs

However....

All these experts didn't agree on what's best for improving teacher preparation.

The crux of the matter:

- How to determine the quality of programs
- Whether methods proposed to assess quality were sufficiently valid

Opposing Viewpoints

- The methods currently proposed for evaluating teacher preparation were not ready for prime time
- The situation is too grave to wait for the perfect and the current methodology is sufficiently valid to use.

Not on the Table

- We don't have a problem.



Solution

- Bring together best experts from opposing views.
- Focus on solving a problem together
- Include a chair that is good at facilitating in difficult dialogues
- Generate a product that would be constructive, focusing on accountability but also on continuous improvement

Membership

- 3 highly regarded deans of schools of education
- 3 methodologists
- everyone had some expertise on teaching and learning
- advised by Jenny Smulson
- chaired by Frank Worrell

Consensus on Sticky Issues

- All agreed that the primary responsibility was to pupils in the schools and their success in learning.
- Each measure employed in assessing program would be presented as useful, but with clearly delineated constraints.
- Use the best possible methods currently available, with the recommended constraints – and not wait for the perfectly validated method.

Consensus on Non-Sticky Issues

- Use multiple methods and multiple time samples
- Standardize Implementation
- Train higher education faculty and staff on data collection and analysis
- Support the continued development of ever more high quality measures that can be employed in all subjects and grades.

Impacts

- Teacher preparation accreditation and state agencies are using the report as a reference.
- We'll see what the new regulations say!!
- Will psychology programs be held accountable for their graduates' contributions to their patients'/clients' mental health?

