Agenda

- Who are the students in U.S. schools?
- How are U.S. schools structured?
- What salient policies affect U.S. schools?
Who are the Students in U.S. Schools?

- **K-12 students: 49.8 million**
  - pre-k-8th: 35.1 million
  - 9th - 12th: 14.7 million
  - Private school: 5 million

- **K-12 Teachers: 3.7 million**
  - public: 3.3 million
  - private: 0.4 million

- **K-12 Average Class Size**
  - public school ratio: 16/1
  - private school ratio: 12/1

*K-12 Student Demographics*

- 24.8 White
- 12.9 Hispanic
- 7.7 Black
- 2.6 API
- 1.4 2 or more
- 0.6 Amer. Ind//Alaska Ntv.
Structure of U.S. Public Schools

- **States** organized into **districts**
- **Districts** organized into **schools**:
  - **Pre-Kindergarten** (Pre-K): Preschool programs not compulsory, but some pre-k programs funded by federal money, such as **Head Start**
  - **Elementary**: Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd (primary grades), 3rd-5th (intermediate)
  - **Secondary**: Middle school (grades 6th-8th); high school (grades 9th-12th)
Pause
Federal Policies and Legal Precedence

1879: Carlisle Indian Boarding School

1938: Fair Labor Standards Act

1954: *Brown v. Board of Education*

1964: Civil Rights Act

1965: Elementary and Secondary Education Act

1968: Bilingual Education Act

1975: Education for All Handicapped Children

2002: No Child Left Behind Act

2004: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

2014: Common Core State Standards
Local Control

- Funding structures
  - Local school districts funded by property taxes, local government, state, and federal funds

- State offices [ministries] of education
  - OSPI, Superintendent of Public Instruction

- Local educational bodies
  - School board, central office, “the District”
School Hierarchies

- Administrative
- Classified
- Certificated
- Principal
- Paraprofessional
- Others: Counselor, school psychologist, speech pathologist, security, nutritional staff, custodial staff
Pause
Socio-economic Status (SES) and U.S. Schooling

- **SES**: descriptor of income level of a school/district/area (for example: “high SES or low SES)
- **FRL** (free and reduced lunch): measure/indicator of SES
- **Title I**: Federal funding given to schools with high percentage of children from low-income families
ELL Students and Language Policy

- Schools are required by law (Title III of NCLB) to provide services for English Language Learners (ELLs).
- Students are identified and assessed as ELLs to determine services they receive.
- Schools provide different services: Push-in/Pull-out (elementary) and Sheltered (secondary).
Special Education [SPED] in U.S. schools

- IDEA - federal legislation
  - Schools are required to educate students with disabilities

- Federal funding

- Mainstreaming and inclusion
  - IEP, 504

- Related staff: school psychologist, IA, speech pathologist
Pause
Traditional Teacher Education

Graduate-level study and certification:

- Minimum of bachelor’s degree to teach
- Qualifying exams - highly qualified
- Typically includes university coursework and internship/practicum in classroom
- State certifications or endorsements
Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification

- Who teaches the teachers?
- Where are they taught?
- What are they taught?
- How much student teaching, or “practice,” first?
- Who decides qualifications/certifications?

Examples:
- Seattle Teacher Residency (STR)
- Teach for America (TFA)
- Relay Graduate School
- Western Governors University
Questions...
Contact the presenters...

Aliza - aliza.fones@gmail.com
Lorena - lguillen@uw.edu
Anthony - alongori@uw.edu