Educational awareness: Student learning objective four

Jocelyn C. Castro

SED 697

California State University, Northridge
EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS by knowing current discipline-based and general educational issues and how those impact schools

Assignment

One of the assignments was to choose a contemporary issue that affects secondary education. In order to completely understand the issue, research was done to provide a framework in choosing a position in regards the issue. The issue I chose was block scheduling in the school setting. After reading the articles and from my own experience, I chose that schools should consider block scheduling. The reason for choosing this article because my school was deciding whether block schedule will be effective in our school. This paper allowed me to do research on this issue and share my thoughts with my administrators and colleagues. The assignment allowed me to organize my thoughts by knowing the issue more and its importance. The research portion of the assignment allowed me to see all sides of the argument, the pros and cons to the effects on the different disciplines. Thoroughly understanding the issue, analyzing the research, allowed me to choose a position and more importantly defend the position.

Connection between Assignment and SLO

Schools are constantly looking for ways to create an effective and optimal learning environment. An issue such as a block schedule change in a school is an idea that will drastically change the structure. Before pursuing this change, schools need to understand the arguments that both agree and disagree with the issue. Decisions to change the schedule should not be taken lightly. If proper research is done, decisions can be made from experience.

A portion of the assignment allowed us to share our experiences and voice our opinion. This reminds us the importance of our voice in the education field. Our own experiences are
valuable assets that can be correlated with other studies so that informed decisions can be made. Blind decisions are prevented from being made.

*What you learned and how it will influence your teaching*

Before decisions can be made, teachers and administrators need to be informed of the issue at hand. Empowering the faculty with the information needed will allow them to defend the decision made for the school. When faculty is not informed, the decision made seems careless because it is now known why the decision was even made. This assignment was valuable because it reminds me that I should not wait for administrators to inform me of a decision. As a master’s student I should take the initiative to seek out the information. I have a responsibility to share the information I find with my colleagues so that we all can understand the issue at hand. I cannot just focus on one side of the argument but I need to see the different perspectives of the issue. Knowing the different sides of the issue can create a better argument and position.