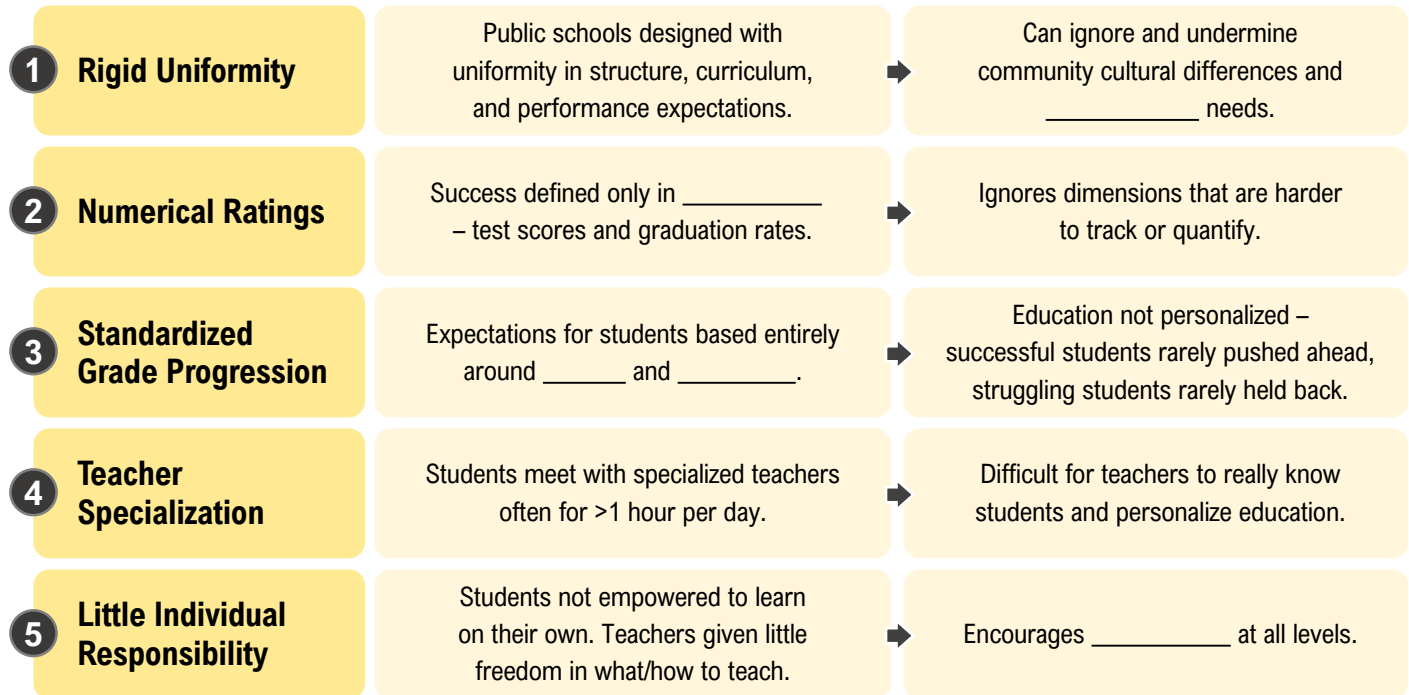


TOPIC: ISSUES IN U.S. EDUCATION

How Bureaucracy Undermines Education

- ◆ Some degree of bureaucracy is necessary for large school systems to function.
- ◆ Theodore Sizer identified 5 ways that bureaucracy _____ education and creates passivity in students:



- ◆ Proponents of reform suggest ____ student-led approaches, increased flexibility, ____ standardized testing.

EXAMPLE

From Sizer's perspective, which of the following are examples of how bureaucracy can undermine education?

- Schools are encouraged to focus on deep learning, using personalized education.
- Schools emphasizing test scores over mastery and critical thinking.
- Teachers having little freedom in what or how they teach.

- a) I & II. b) I & III. c) II & III. d) I, II, & III.

PRACTICE

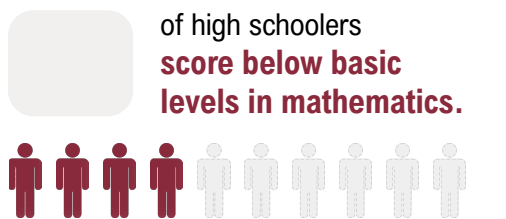
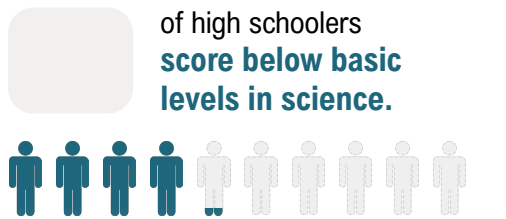
Large, heavily bureaucratic school systems can undermine education by:

- Offering programs tailored for each student's individual needs.
- Giving teachers a high level of autonomy.
- Focusing on student critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving.
- Basing curriculums around improving standardized test performance.

TOPIC: ISSUES IN U.S. EDUCATION

Academic Standards and Initiatives

- ◆ The U.S. invests more into education than most high-income nations, yet continues to see poor student outcomes.



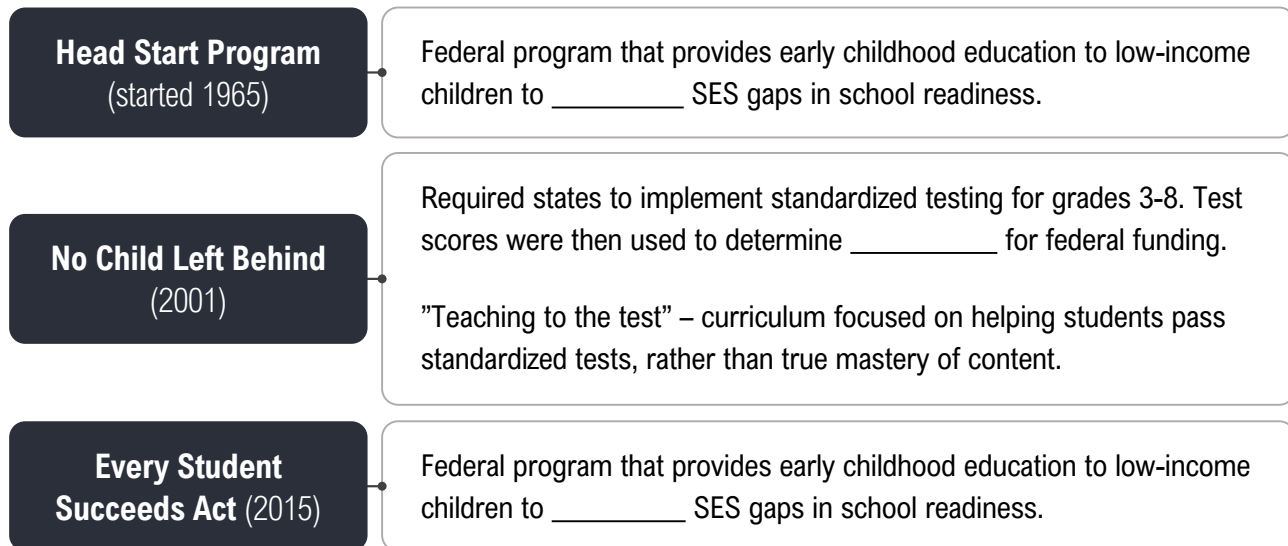
(US Census Bureau, 2024)



are **functionally illiterate:**
lack reading skills for everyday living.

**Approximate values*

- ◆ Multiple policies have been implemented to try and improve outcomes:



TOPIC: ISSUES IN U.S. EDUCATION

EXAMPLE

Match each statement in the box with the academic initiative it is describing:

1	Federal education law that required states to test students annually, with federal funding tied to test scores.	
2	Federal early childhood program designed to improve school readiness among low-income children.	
3	Federal education law that shifted more power to states regarding how schools are evaluated and funded.	

- a) Head Start
- b) No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
- c) Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

PRACTICE

The Every Student Succeeds Act differed from No Child Left Behind by:

- a) Increasing federal control over schools.
- b) Giving states more power and flexibility in evaluating schools.
- c) Eliminating standardized testing.
- d) Providing extra federal funds to high-performing districts.

PRACTICE

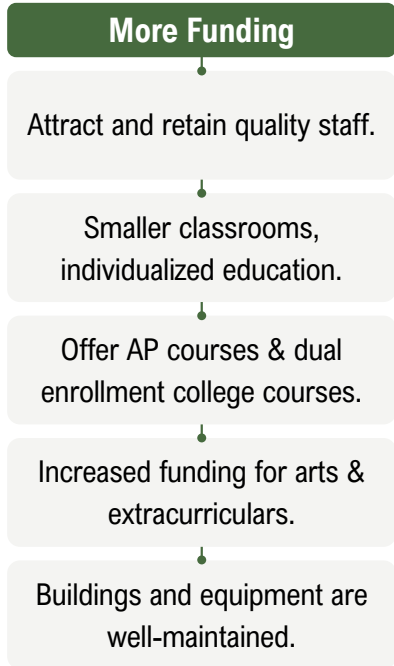
Which policy attempts to reduce SES-based educational inequality before children enter formal schooling?

- a) School choice and voucher programs.
- b) No Child Left Behind.
- c) Young Scholars in America Act.
- d) Head Start.

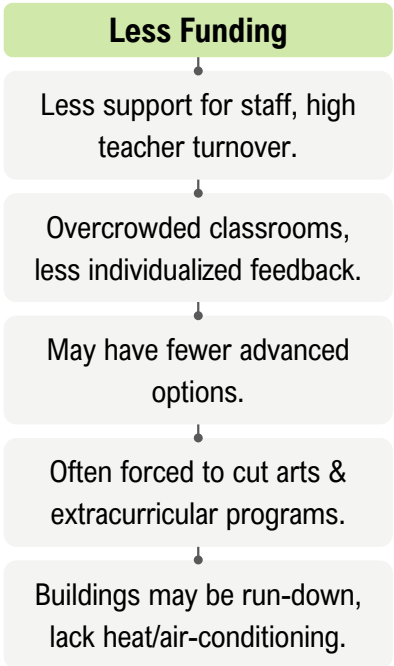
TOPIC: ISSUES IN U.S. EDUCATION

Inequality Among Schools

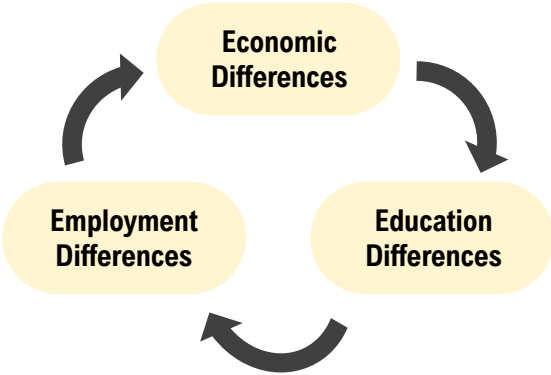
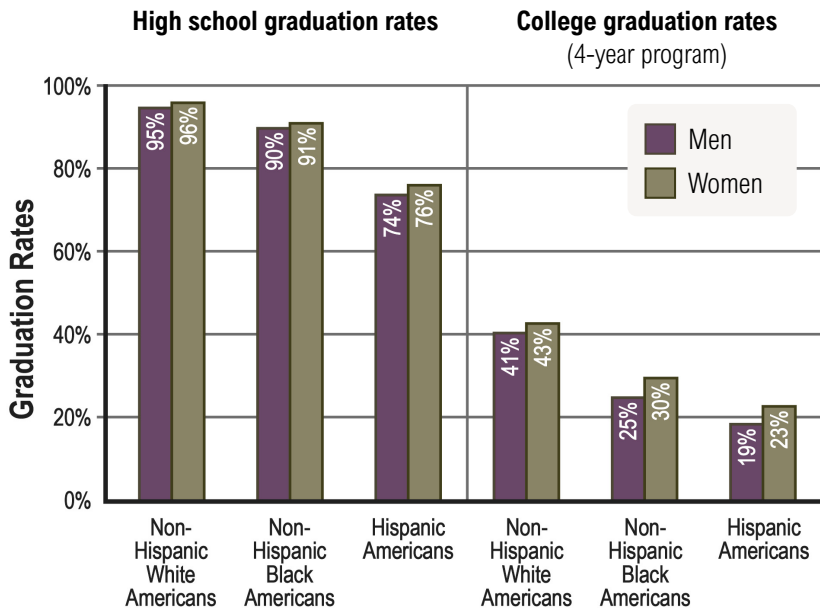
◆ Public schools are funded through local _____ taxes → schools in more affluent areas receive better funding.



White students are more likely to live in affluent areas compared to racial minorities.
This creates a racial education _____.



◆ The education gap continues in _____:



(US Census Bureau, 2024)

TOPIC: ISSUES IN U.S. EDUCATION

EXAMPLE

From a conflict perspective, unequal public school funding demonstrates:

- a) How the education system gives all students an equal chance to succeed.
- b) How the education system plays a massive role in eliminating class differences.
- c) How the education system reproduces existing social inequalities.
- d) How the proletarian class are becoming more advantaged than the capitalist class.

PRACTICE

Students in low-income districts are more likely to experience:

- a) Fewer elective and extracurricular programs.
- b) Access to college counselors.
- c) Well-funded science labs.
- d) Small class sizes with individualized education.