

Combating the Effects of Poverty in the Classroom Online

Course Outline

Course Description

Children are coming to schools from homes that suffer poverty in increasing numbers. The effects of poverty impact their performance in class. Educators can level the playing field and give children from poverty the skills they need to be successful students by understanding the relationship between academic achievement and low socio-economic status.

The National Center for Children in Poverty reports that twenty one percent of American children, or over fifteen million children come from households that are poor. In reality, we know that this number is quite low and that families making significantly more than that are still struggling. With unemployment and under-employment still effecting a great number of Americans the number of children coming to school enduring deprivation is continues to rise.

This course will explore the nature of poverty and its effects on child development and learning. It provides teachers with an understanding of poverty, but more importantly gives them the strategies and tools they need to create an educational framework to meet the needs of impoverished children and help them succeed in school.

Objectives

- Develop working definitions for poor and low-income families.
- Identify the criterion that characterizes poor from low-income families.
- Examine the impact poverty has on the whole child.
- Explore the various types of poverty and the different influences each presents when working with these students in the school setting.
- Identify the ways in which the culture of poverty can influence relationships.
- Investigate the relationship between academic and socio-economic status.
- Explore the theory and research of how poverty effects the brain development of children enduring deprivation.
- Acquire a basic knowledge of how the culture of poverty impacts values, communication and one's ability to successfully interact with society norms.
- Critique the different sets of rules that govern behavior within the social classes and analyze how those rules impact student learning.
- Evaluate and create an action plan that addresses the need for students to be able to identify when which set of rules is acceptable.
- Explore strategies that can have a positive impact on the neuroplasticity of the brains of children living in deprivation.
- Explore and evaluate the different ways of measuring IQ.
- Create a thematic unit that addresses specific strategies for intellectual growth.
- Research current educational policies and research based educational programs that have displayed a positive effect on student learning.
- Analyze how data can drive meaningful instruction.

