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Case Studies in
Every Chapter and
Guide to Preparing
for Certification

Education

THE PRACTICE AND
PROFESSION OF TEACHING

Fifth Edition

Robert F. McNergney
Joanne M. McNergney

FIFTH EDITION

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*To our parents,
Quentin and Thelma McNergney,
and Elmore and Arvilla May,
and to our children,
Erin, Jonathan, Carrie, Andrew, and Mimi,
with love and respect.*

Preface

The nature of classrooms and the demands on teachers are changing almost daily. Increasingly, teachers are being held accountable for results achieved by their students. Now more than ever future teachers must be able to hit the ground running as true education professionals—acquiring teaching knowledge and using it to solve real problems. The future of education in America belongs to those who can exercise their judgment intelligently and with courage to help others learn.

All professionals, regardless of their field, develop their expertise by acquiring and applying specialized knowledge. For teachers, this means mastering fundamental concepts of education in the United States and understanding the complexities of their own classrooms, schools, school districts, and communities. To do so teachers must understand the diversity

of resources available to them and be able to employ these resources at appropriate times in appropriate ways.

There is no one best way to help students learn. The fifth edition of *Education: The Practice and Profession of Teaching* reinforces this important idea by introducing a wealth of knowledge via **case studies** and **case-based analyses**. These tools will help you apply what you learn to real life.

In addition to authentic classroom experiences in cases and case-based analyses, this text provides practical examples of technology use in the classroom, lessons teachers have learned about dealing with the influences of diversity and culture, and numerous parameters defining the legal context of teaching. Here's what you will find.

Case Study: Reaching Every Student

It was Thursday evening, and John Sampson was feeling very energetic. The first few weeks of school had flown by, and he was itching to sketch out his plans for the next teaching quarter. As the new math hire at Gainesville High School, John had been assigned two basic- and three higher-level classes of students. John loved math—a subject that had always come easily to him. He couldn't explain why, but it was as if he were born understanding the subject. His classmates, and at least one of his teachers, used to jokingly refer to him as the class "egghead."

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Case Perspectives

Think back to the case that opened this chapter. The cases are designed to provide a context for your own situation.

Marta Jones is curriculum coordinator at Gainesville High School.

John sounds like a bright, hardworking young man. What is that each student is unique. In other words, what works for John himself) may not work for another.

Besides using an inductive approach, John might also use a direct approach—a strategy that can be used to teach both conceptual understanding and skill. In direct instruction, the teacher reviews and describes the goal of the new concept (perhaps modeling how to solve a problem), provides students with opportunities to practice (guided practice), and then gives students feedback about their performance. While modeling instruction, John can "think out loud" (cognitive modeling), verbalizing his thinking as he solves the problem. So, he is teaching thinking strategies—a goal that seems to be a good one.


As the research on teaching illustrates, teachers do use alternate strategies, John will have greater opportunities to succeed.

Case Studies, Case Perspectives, and Questions for Reflection.

Research supports the notion that students of teaching can learn to apply foundational educational knowledge most readily through a case study method. Every chapter opens with a brief case or an authentic moment showing real teachers confronting important issues. And every chapter ends with Case Perspectives—comments from educators and other experts—that provide context for your own analysis of each case in Questions for Reflection. How might you respond to the situations that these teachers are facing?

Cultural Awareness: Lessons Learned. Every classroom is different from every other classroom in one way or another. Listen to stories from real teachers about what they have encountered—and what they have learned.





Cultural Awareness: Lessons Learned

Betsy Rogers, a twenty-year veteran from Alabama, was named National Teacher of the Year in 2003. When she returned to teaching a year later, Ms. Rogers elected to work at one of the neediest schools in Alabama. The experience was the beginning of her "metamorphosis." Believing she had the power to turn the school around, Ms. Rogers came to the school with a self-proclaimed Mighty Mouse attitude: "Here I come to save the day!" Teachers resented her attitude, and Ms. Rogers realized she knew nothing about what it means to work in a school marked by a culture of failure:

My first reality check came the day I had to attend a meeting of schools labeled Tier I. Previously this label had been High Priority School and before that Low Performing. When I was sitting in this room with the others from the area schools, I had several reactions. First, I was embarrassed to be there. I wanted to stand up and say, "This is my first year at this school, I did not do this!" Then I felt this great sense of frustration and I realized this is how the teachers in my school have felt for so long. I do not know how they have survived. I felt ashamed of what I expected from the teachers because I do not know if I could have continued to work with this burden on me. Labeling a school as failing is devastating to

one's soul and creates such a depressed climate. . . . I began to understand this negative climate takes its toll on you physically. . . .

Daily I question[ed] myself, "Am I the right person to work at this school? Can I really help and have [an] impact? Do I have what it takes? Can teachers who have been recognized for their work be accepted in hard-to-staff schools?" I do not know the answers to the questions, I just know that I want to be in this school. I want to help create a positive culture that will enable the students and teachers to overcome this label of failure. I also have learned the key to this change of climate lies within the teachers at my school, not me.

Question for Reflection: What kinds of experiences have you had that might enable you to teach in an educational culture that is quite different from the one you have experienced?

To answer this question online and e-mail your answer to your professor, go to Chapter 1 of the Companion Website (www.ablongman.com/mcnerney5e) and click on Cultural Awareness.

Source: Rogers, B. (2005). Teacher of the Year. Teacher Magazine. Available online: <http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/brogers/>.



Voices Pro and Con

To Standardize or Not to Standardize the Curriculum?

Some educators and community members argue for a move "back to the basics" in public education. They advocate a common or standardized curriculum to ensure that all students learn the same information and skills. They resist attempts to replace traditional subject matter with courses that are based on real-life experiences and are problem-focused.

Other people support efforts to expand and diversify public school curriculum to "meet students' needs." They believe traditional curriculum and teaching-learning methods breed conformity and simply do not work for children who fall outside an imaginary band of "average" and "above-average" students. Basics, they argue, require and reinforce conformity. The diversity of our population and the rapidly changing, technologically rich society in which we live demand a responsive, flexible curriculum.

Should American public schools have a standardized curriculum, at least in elementary and middle schools? People who support standardization are typically characterized as conservative. Those who oppose it might be called progressive. However, different people from various walks of life might hold either position.

Pro A child's education should not be based on a geographical roll of the dice. You should have access to the same content regardless of the town or state in which you reside.

If we are to stand together as a nation, we need a common

conception of what it means to be a citizen of the United States of America. The only way we can get that is to have a standardized curriculum.

There is too much variation in what teachers choose to teach and how they have students spend their time. Students who most need help mastering the knowledge and skills for which they will be held accountable later are cheated by differing expectations.

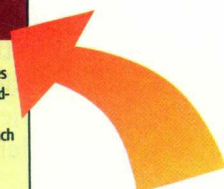
Con Many students do not even speak English, and many more have disabilities. They cannot be expected to learn the same content that typical students learn.

What it means to be an American is that we respect each other's right to be different. We don't need to force conformity in the curriculum to feel and act like Americans.

Who is to say what should constitute a standardized or common curriculum? Teachers are professionals. They know their students better than anyone else. Society should welcome their judgment about what is to be taught and learned and trust that judgment when it is offered.

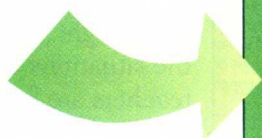
Questions for Reflection: Do you favor one position more than the other? Why or why not?

To answer these questions online and e-mail your answers to your professor, go to Chapter 10 of the Companion Website (www.ablongman.com/mcnerney5e) and click on Voices Pro and Con.



Voices Pro and Con. What are the hot topics, the big issues in education today? What are the arguments? Listen to the voices that are making the arguments—then decide for yourself.

Teachers and the Law. We live in a litigious society. How do teachers fit in? What are the legal rights and responsibilities of educators? Learn about how laws affect teachers' daily lives.





Teachers and the Law

How free are teachers to practice their religion?

The courts have had much to say about the Establishment Clause of the Constitution as it applies to students' religious practice in schools. The subject of a teacher's religious practice, however, comes up far less frequently. Historically, others' judgments of teachers' moral rectitude and their outwardly religious tendencies were matters of great concern to the community. Teachers were hired and fired based on the examples they set for their students.

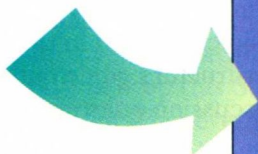
Teachers' religious beliefs and practices are beginning to reemerge as issues of concern in various communities across the nation. Does the Roman Catholic teacher in a public school who wears ashes on her forehead on Ash Wednesday act in


accordance with the law? Is it permissible in the eyes of the law for a teacher to wear a Jesus bracelet so that it is visible to students? Can a Sikh teacher wear a turban as he teaches his physics class, or a Jewish teacher wear a yarmulke in world history class? Do such behaviors constitute an endorsement of particular religions by the school systems that employ these teachers?

In some instances, the courts have ruled that public school authorities may legally prohibit the wearing of religious clothes or symbols while in the performance of teaching duties. In other cases the courts have ruled that only a teacher's repeated display of religious clothes and symbols might be deemed objectionable.

These and other issues are often covered in a teachers' handbook or policy manual. Be sure to ask about such material when you get your first job.

Technology in Practice. We are surrounded in almost every aspect of our lives by incredibly powerful technologies. But how can these technologies be used to enhance learning? These examples show how classroom teachers are using technology in creative ways.






Technology in Practice

Accessing History

With the click of a computer mouse, Tina Schuster's students travel through history. Although she uses textbooks, videos, and other traditional materials, technology is a key component of Schuster's curriculum. In 2005 she was awarded the Virginia Governor's Innovative Technology Award for her dedication to integrating technology into her U.S. history and government classes at Fluvanna County High School.


Her students use technology to view and compare campaign advertisements, search a Civil War database, create a timeline of U.S. history, take virtual field trips and research and write a bill, which they electronically exchange with high school students around the nation. She teaches more than history, Schuster said. Incorporating technology into the curriculum prepares her students for the future. "Technology is already so integrated in life outside of school," Schuster said. "If we expect our students to be competitive, I feel that we have to provide opportunities for them to see technology in use." (Mayhew, 2005)

Questions for Reflection: If you were to use technology to teach history, what student outcomes would you hope to



achieve? How might you judge student progress in the short term?

To answer these questions online and e-mail your answers to your professor, go to Chapter 5 of the Companion Website (www.ablongman.com/mcnerney5e) and click on Technology in Practice.



Issues in School Reform

School Consolidation

Over the past several decades, one trend in the United States has been to consolidate small schools. In 1930 there were more than 247,000 public schools, compared to over 95,000 today.

Rural communities have tried to meet fiscal shortfalls by consolidating schools. As a response to a century-old pattern of rural decline, school consolidation has been one of American education's longest-lasting reform efforts. By combining schools, proponents argue it is possible to cut administrative and facilities expenses while still offering students a broad curriculum.

In recent years, many communities have resisted consolidation, because they like knowing and working closely with a small number of administrators and teachers. Moving their children to a larger, more distant school means parents will have less say in the day-to-day running of schools (Schwisow, 2002). Parents also contend that, although money may be saved by closing school buildings, additional transportation expenses may more than offset savings. Furthermore, the prospect of having their

children spend excessive amounts of time riding buses to and from school has encouraged many parents to speak out against consolidation.

Another factor contributing to resistance to consolidation is the "small school advantage." A growing body of research suggests that small schools help students develop strong relationships with teachers and colleagues, promote greater student and parent involvement, and foster a positive school culture (Wasley et al., 2000).

Question for Reflection: If you were a teacher in a small school, what are some of the factors that might prompt you to support or resist school consolidation?

To answer this question online and e-mail your answer to your professor, go to Chapter 7 of the Companion Website (www.ablongman.com/mcnerney5e) and click on Issues in School Reform.



Issues in School Reform.

Education is always changing—just like the society around it. This recurring feature highlights some major trends.

Reflective Practice. A mini-case at the end of each chapter integrates the foregoing content and relates the issues raised to INTASC principles. You have opportunities to think critically about what you have learned. This capstone activity helps you apply professional knowledge to classroom contexts.

And, at the end of each Part,

- **Timelines** provide a snapshot of important educational events.
- **Online Activities** encourage you to investigate questions using the Internet.
- **Developing a Professional Portfolio** helps you plan and document your professional development.

In addition to all these features, you will also find, at the beginning of this text, the *Allyn & Bacon Guide to Preparing for Certification*, a practical tutorial of FAQs, test-taking tips, and sample text questions drawn from various national and state licensure exams. The *Guide* will help you prepare to take either the PRAXIS exam or a state certification test.

How Is This Book Organized?

Education: The Practice and Profession of Teaching is organized into five parts. This organizational structure reflects a contemporary view of teaching as a profession. The demands in today's U.S. schools require future teachers both to possess foundational knowledge about education and teaching and to be able to apply it. Teachers must also understand links among fundamental topics as they are defined both locally and globally. The organization of this fifth edition will help you achieve these goals.

Part One, Teaching from the Inside Out, explains the foundations of teacher professionalism and includes an introduction to teaching as a profession, an overview of school and classroom challenges, and a discussion of the richness of classroom cultures.

The chapters of Part Two, Our Educational Heritage, illustrate how history and philosophy have defined education in the United States and present the origins of ideas and values that make American education what it is today—and what it will be tomorrow.

Part Three, Education from the Outside In, explains why it is important for teachers to understand how schools compare, how they are managed by school leaders and governed by law, and why appropriate financing is critical to their success.

In Part Four, Helping Students Succeed, we explore the new emphasis on standards and assessment and how this affects the teaching profession, as well as how teachers integrate what they know about curriculum and instruction to increase the chances that students will succeed in their classrooms.

Finally, Part Five, A Connected Future, stretches beyond our borders to consider international and global education and anticipates an exciting future for education professionals in an increasingly interdependent world.

Throughout, the Case Studies that begin each chapter and the Case Perspectives and Questions for Reflection that end them underline the goal of this book—to help you become a successful teacher in an ever more complex world.

Supplements for Instructors and Students

Supplements for Instructors

- **Instructor's Resource Manual with Test Bank** includes a wealth of interesting ideas and activities designed to help instructors teach the course. Each chapter includes a chapter overview and an annotated lecture outline that provides examples, discussion questions, and student activities.

The test bank includes hundreds of questions, including multiple choice questions, essay questions, case studies, and alternative assessments that are designed and correlated to reflect the content of the textbook.

- **Computerized Test Bank** The printed test bank is also available electronically through our computerized testing system, TestGenEQ.
- **Allyn & Bacon Interactive Video: Issues in Education** features news reports from around the country on topics covered in the text. An accompanying instructor's guide outlines teaching strategies and discussion questions to use with the clips.
- **Allyn & Bacon Transparencies for Foundations of Education/Introduction to Teaching, 2005**, is a set of one hundred acetate transparencies related to topics in the text.
- **Online Course Management** Powered by Blackboard and hosted nationally, Allyn & Bacon's own course management system, **Course Compass**, helps you manage all aspects of teaching your course and features pre-loaded content to support Foundations of Education and Introduction to Teaching courses. For colleges and universities with **Blackboard™** licenses, special course management packages are available in this format as well.

Supplements for Students

- **MyLabSchool** is a collection of online tools for your success in this course, your licensure exams, and your teaching career. Visit www.mylabschool.com to access the following:
 - Video cases from real classrooms
 - Help with your research papers using Research Navigator
 - Career Center with resources for:
 - Praxis exams and licensure preparation
 - Professional portfolio development
 - Job search and interview techniques
 - Allyn & Bacon's Lesson and Portfolio Builder application
- The **Companion Website** built to accompany this text provides free access to a wealth of features and activities designed to help you with your studies, including Practice Tests, Flash Cards,

and additional Web activities. Students can also access an **Interactive Timeline** that highlights the people and events that have shaped education throughout history, as well as select *New York Times* articles through **Themes of the Times**.

Colorful, affordable, and packed with useful information, Allyn & Bacon's **Study Card for Introduction to Education** makes studying easier, more efficient, and more enjoyable. Course information is distilled down to the basics, helping you quickly master the fundamentals, review a subject for understanding, or prepare for an exam. Because they're laminated for durability, you can keep this Study Card for years to come and pull it out whenever you need a quick review.

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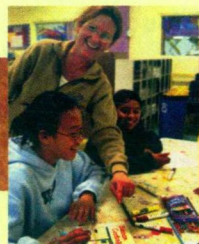
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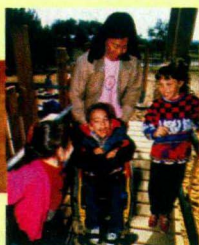
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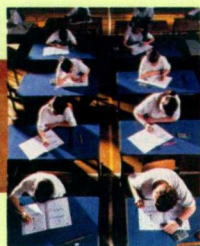
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