

**Historical Influences – How Have Selected Historical Legacies, Key Persons (Real or Fictitious) and World Events from Earlier Time Periods Shaped Today's U.S. Education?**  
EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

## **Outline**

### **I. Legacies from Europe**

A. Rational Thinking processes are important and can be developed; democratic decision making - citizenship (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle), learn through observation and weighing of evidence - science (Francis Bacon)

B. Reading Key to Knowledge – worth of the individual; path to God is individual reflection while reading the Bible (Reformation)

C. Organized schools – knowledge needs to be organized to be understood; students grouped by grade level (Comenius); schools preferred over parents, teachers should have special training

D. Universal Education - As many people as possible should be educated

### **II. Selected Non-European Influences on Ideas**

A. Legacies from **Africa** – importance of oral learning within the community, importance of community takes precedence over importance of individual

B. Legacies from **Islam** – importance of words (Koran can not translated), therefore the importance of memorization and exact recitation

C. Legacies from **China's Confucian** Tradition – importance of high test scores, those with the highest test scores advance to roles in government

D. Legacies from **Hinduism** – value multiple approaches to learning (multifold path) and the goal is to be liberated from the birth/death cycle

### III. Development of American Education

#### **A. Colonial Period to Independence**

1. The New England Colonies – Puritans, Old Deluder Satan Act of 1647, Boston Latin Grammar School (Latin, Greek, Theology)
2. The Middle Colonies – Dutch Swedes English Scots Irish, The Franklin Academy (math, navigation, bookkeeping); emphasis on private schools
3. The Southern Colonies – tutors, no schools, home schools

#### **B. Independence to the Civil War –**

1. Which constitutional amendment address education?
2. The Work of Horace Mann – Common School, Normal School

#### **C. Civil War to 1900 –**

1. unparalleled industrialization and immigration
2. Kalamazoo case (ruled that the state legislature had the right to pass laws levying taxes for the support of both elementary and secondary schools)

#### **D. 1900 to World War II – (See School Reform Agendas handout previously distributed)**

1. idea of junior high school as academic transition between elementary and secondary school;
2. contributions of John Dewey (learning is social problem solving) and the Progressive Movement
3. The Testing Movement (Binet, Thorndike)
4. The Seven Cardinal Principles

#### **E. World War II to the Twenty-first Century – (See School Reform Agendas handout previously distributed)**

1. idea of middle school based on developmental needs
2. responding to international and social problems (e.g., Sputnik & National Defense Education Act)
3. school improvement initiatives (e.g., open nongraded classrooms)