

Reviews

The Effective Principal: Perspectives on School Leadership, Second Edition

Arthur Blumberg and William Greenfield
Newton, Massachusetts:
Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 1986

—Reviewed by Mildred G. Ness, Rochester,
New York

School policymakers would be wise to pay close attention to the "general welfare, growth, and development of their best principals—as they will likely lose them, if not in body then in spirit," conclude Blumberg and Greenfield in the second edition of their study of effective leaders.

Reporting from extensive interviews with eight outstanding principals originally selected in 1980 and followed up five years later, the authors find that common characteristics of exceptional administrators—such as vision, initiative, and resourcefulness—are still evident in these leaders, but stress and frustration have taken their toll and caused all of them to seek a change either from their original schools or from the position of principal. For readers unfamiliar with the first edition, the authors provide a generous recap in Part I, emphasizing each principal's problem-solving approach.

Although lengthy and somewhat redundant, these case studies are significant in that they elucidate the factors that prevent recognizably able principals from reaching their goals—information valuable to personnel who nourish and support key administrators.

Available from Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 7 Wells Ave., Newton, MA 02159, for \$29.95.

The Special Education Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide for Parents and Educators

Kenneth Shore
New York:

Teachers College Press, 1986

—Reviewed by Elinor L. Katz, Bureau of
Educational Services, University of Denver,
Colorado.

The Special Education Handbook clarifies for parents and educators of handicapped children PL 94-142, the evaluation process, the Individualized Education Program (IEP), due process, and special education programs and strategies. This book helps parents get involved in their children's special education programs and gives them the information they need to exercise their rights and responsibilities.

Available from Teachers College Press, Teachers College, Columbia University, 1234 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10027, for \$14.95.

Unlearned Lessons: Current and Past Reforms for School Improvement

Barbara Z. Presseisen

Philadelphia:

The Falmer Press, 1986

—Reviewed by Thomas R. McDaniell, Converse College, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Be grateful, you wash in the rising tide of reform reports, for this useful analysis of eight well-known reform reports, including *A Nation At Risk*, *The Paideia Proposal*, *High School*, and *Horace's Compromise*. By putting her analysis in a historical context—reaching back to the Committee of Ten and the Cardinal Principles and projecting into the dimly illumined future—Presseisen provides a framework for evaluating these reforms and the reform process itself. By organizing the eight publications around their "goal emphases" (society/efficiency, content/excellence, individual/equity), she uncovers significant patterns and comparisons. Students of educational change will find the review, analysis, and the reflection a sensible and thought-provoking background for assessing educational reforms.

Available from The Falmer Press, Taylor & Francis, Inc., 242 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19106-1906, for \$26.00 (hardcover) and \$12.00 (paperback).

Journal of Personnel Evaluation in Education

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