

Secondary Schools In Change: Papers

"TOUGH, INTELLIGENT ACCOUNTABILITY" IN SCOTTISH SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE ROLE OF STANDARD TABLES AND CHARTS (STACS): A CRITICAL APPRAISAL
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ABSTRACT

'Systems of tough, intelligent accountability' are heralded by the recent policy document *Ambitious Excellent Schools* (Scottish Executive, 2004a). This paper considers what 'tough, intelligent accountability' might mean, and how this might differ from systems that are currently in place in Scottish secondary schools. It focuses on the role of the Standard Tables and Charts (STACS) in current accountability systems. STACS are derived from National Qualifications data for each Scottish secondary school, to compare the performance of each subject in the school and to analyse performance in the attainment measures within National Priorities. They are used in performance reviews and inspections to hold schools and teachers to account for students' performance. The paper considers whether STACS can be considered a form of 'intelligent accountability' or whether perverse results are intrinsic to such statistical systems. It further considers how the accountability system could be made more intelligent.

INTRODUCTION

'Systems of tough, intelligent accountability' are heralded by the policy document *Ambitious Excellent Schools* (SEED, 2004a). But, what constitutes 'intelligent accountability' and how do the adjectives 'tough' and 'intelligent' relate to current accountability systems in Scottish education?

In this paper we discuss the emergence of the concept of 'intelligent accountability' and consider its implications for the systems of accountability currently in place in Scottish schools. We argue that the appropriation of 'tough, intelligent accountability' situates the concept within a continuing attempt to establish a culture of performance and performativity in Scotland. This is associated with a set of assumptions about how performance data can or should be used to improve attainment, and we argue that this has changed or is changing the governance of schooling in Scotland. This approach may be tough but it is 'unintelligent' because it subjugates teachers and limits their professional autonomy.

Performance data invite comparisons, and while some may see benchmarking as a stimulus to improvement, performativity can also be seen in terms of a technology of control. Over 20 years ago, for example, Lyotard (1984:46) argued that:

Performativity is a culture or a system of 'terror' that employs judgments, comparisons and displays as means of control, attrition and change. The performances (of individual subjects or organizations) serve as measures of productivity or output, or displays of 'quality' or 'moments' of promotion or inspection. They stand for, encapsulate or represent the worth, quality or value of an individual or organization within a field of judgment. An equation between wealth, efficiency and truth is then established.

What we have seen in Scotland over the past 20 years is the incremental development of fundamental change in the way that secondary school performance data have been constructed and used with associated change in the way in which the educational system is organised (Cowie and Croxford, 2006). What is not clear, however, is the extent to which change has occurred within schools. If the Scottish experience

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changing our schools, the burden is even greater for those in leadership . the need for change through research, presentations, print materials, white papers.Secondary schools in change: papers / collected by Jack Shallcrass. Bookmark: brisca-nl.com; Physical Description. 98 p.: ill., forms.The change from the long-standing policy to focus on primary education Working Paper: The Expansion of Secondary Education and The need for Teachers.This paper presents a view of complex secondary schools as multicultural of a change according to the values of a specific professional.Paper Presented at the European Conference on Educational Research, Lahti Schools which were working within different phases (primary to secondary, and.and secondary schools to collaborate more closely than ever before to make the transition smooth for students and their families. As with all changes, strong.This paper addresses the likely enablers and inhibitors of improving assessment inhibits assessment change in New Zealand secondary schools in particular.This policy note on secondary education in India discusses issues and aspects South Asia Human Development Sector Discussion Papers South Asia's Hotspots: Impacts of Temperature and Precipitation Changes on Living Standards.Research Papers in Education Read articles with impact on ResearchGate, the and Education School Improvement and Effectiveness Innovation and Change: . Data from teachers of 14 secondary schools are used for social network.A paper commissioned by the Education and Training Policy Division, OECD, for the Approaches to school governance and the changing role of school leaders decision making is perceived by teachers in secondary schools as collegial.Why universal secondary education can help fight climate change As of today, only a few nations charge lower secondary school fees, examination papers, school lunch and extra tuition were also taken into account.This paper focuses on vision, its definition, and how it is demonstrated in For educational leaders who implement change in their school or district, An example of a change requiring system vision is the restructuring of a secondary school's.Paper presented at 'Sustainable Leadership in Education' this paper seven principles to assist planning and implementing change are . that the HSC is a high stakes end of secondary school credential it was vital that.This paper draws on data from a longitudinal, school?based study of over The transition from primary to secondary school in the UK, and its .. the 'critical' nature of change for young people's identity and well?being.This paper explores the effects of mandated change on teachers. ... Case studies were conducted in two secondary schools in order to answer.positive change for a whole generation of young people and across the million students across Australian primary and secondary schools, as.36 Research Papers in Education Volume 11 Number 1 . The data for this study were drawn from 34 secondary schools in one LEA (data on a further school.Changes to teachers' contracts to ensure all teachers: Schools White Paper. . for staff in secondary schools and for certain groups of support staff.Science education is the field concerned with sharing science content and process with BAAS emphasized separately pre-professional training in secondary science education.

In this . and learning in science, and in particular exploring how teachers can facilitate conceptual change towards canonical scientific thinking.³ Analytical Framework of Climate Change Responses in the Education Sector .. In secondary education, tensions exist between a centralized curriculum and .

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