

## RESEARCH PAPER: PUBLIC SCHOOLING, GOVERNANCE, AND FINANCING GUIDELINES

### OPPORTUNITY TASK:

**TPE 6.7**

### 30 POINTS

#### Goals

This task will provide candidates the opportunity to critically analyze how the context, structure, and history of public education in California affects and influences state, district, and school governance as well as state and local education finance.

**Topical Understanding:** The financing and governance of California's public school are influenced by the State's context, structure, and history.

**Topical Question:** How do issues affecting today's California public schools relate to the State's financing structure, governance, history, and contemporary context?

**Task:** Select an issue related to public schooling that has been highlighted in the news within the last two years. Analyze how the issue relates to the history of public schooling in California and its financial and government structures. Provide recommendations regarding how a school site should respond to the issue, given its resources and access to power.

Move through each of the following steps in order to develop your 4-6 page research paper.

#### Step 1. – Investigate the History of California's Public Schools

- **Review each of the links provided below.**
  - A History of California's Public School System – Timeline- from California School News  
<http://caschoolnews.net/issues/a-history-of-californias-public-school-system/>
  - Historical Timeline of Public Education in the US – Timeline – From Race Forward (ends in 1998)  
<https://www.raceforward.org/research/reports/historical-timeline-public-education-us>
  - Short synopsis outlining the history of public education California from 1849 to 1961 – from the California Department of Education - <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/re/hd/yr1961hd08.asp>
  - *Early Vision Of Semple, Swett Realized In Broad, Firm Educational System*, By Will C. Wood, State Superintendent of Public Instruction (1925) - From the Virtual Museum of the City of San Francisco  
<http://www.sfmuseum.org/hist3/schools.html>
  - Financing California's Public Schools – from Public Policy Institute of California  
[http://www.ppic.org/main/publication\\_show.asp?i=1001](http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_show.asp?i=1001)
  - Making Sense of your Dollars – from the Oakland Unified School District (recent financial timeline)  
<http://www.ousd.org/Page/12492>
  - California's K-12 Schools: How are they doing? – from RAND Study (2005)

[http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2004/RAND\\_MG186.sum.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2004/RAND_MG186.sum.pdf)

- This last report is a bit outdated in terms of the data used. However, it puts the historical financial issues in context with school-based issues. This is the one that might be most indispensable when needing to cite historical data writing your paper.
- Basic Aid School Districts – from Public Policy Institute of California  
<https://www.ppic.org/publication/basic-aid-school-districts/>
  - Are you up for a challenge? This report is very dense and may be challenging to comprehend. However, if you decide to focus your research paper on how funding is distributed to schools within California and how it relates to property taxes, you'll need to read this carefully to understand the issue. This report is very detailed, a wealth of important information!
- Explore any additional resources you locate on your own.

## **Step 2. – Explore the Structure of California's Public School Governance and Financing Systems**

- Complete Chapters 7 and 8 of ED100's online course modules at [www.ed100.org](http://www.ed100.org).
  - Chapter 7 - ...And a System – Lessons 7.0-7.10
  - Chapter 8 - ...with Resources... - Lessons 8.0-8.10
- Each module should take approximately 1 hour of time.

## **Step 3. – Research California Schools in the News**

- Select a topic related to California public schools that has been in the news within the last five years.
- Read a minimum of three reputable news stories on the topic. (Seek out resources that employ journalists to research the stories published. Avoid blog posts, on-line magazines, and social media videos.)

## **Step 4. – Write a 4-6 page research paper on the selected topic.**

- Ensure that your paper does each of the following;
  - draws from historical information related to California's public schools,
  - analyzes the issue in relationship to the current financial and governance structures of California's public schools, and
  - explains why the issue is newsworthy, how it affects students, and how a school might respond to the issue, given its resources and access to power.

**NOTE:** Excellent papers typically utilize more than 4 sources and cite information from the ED100 lessons or history links provided (unless other high quality, academic sources are located).

Be prepared to present a summary of your paper on the date due.

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<b>Criteria</b>	<b>5 5 points</b>	<b>4 4.5 points</b>	<b>3 4 points</b>	<b>2 3 points</b>	<b>1 2 points</b>
<b>Analysis of history of California and its effects on public schools</b>	Comprehensive, thorough analysis with significant, relevant, and appropriate detail.	Appropriate, relevant analysis with some detail	Adequate and generally appropriate analysis.	Limited, partially relevant, incomplete, and/or inappropriate analysis.	Little or no effective, relevant, or appropriate analysis.
<b>Analysis of how governance and finances affect CA public schools</b>	Comprehensive, thorough analysis with significant, relevant, and appropriate detail.	Appropriate, relevant analysis with some detail	Adequate and generally appropriate analysis.	Limited, partially relevant, incomplete, and/or inappropriate analysis.	Little or no effective, relevant, or appropriate analysis.
Analysis of topic's relevance to today and how to respond	Comprehensive, thorough analysis with significant, relevant, and appropriate detail.	Appropriate, relevant analysis with some detail	Adequate and generally appropriate analysis.	Limited, partially relevant, incomplete, and/or inappropriate analysis.	Little or no effective, relevant, or appropriate analysis.
Selection and use of literature and resource information	Analysis referenced significant, relevant, and appropriate literature and resources.	Analysis referenced appropriate and relevant literature and resources.	Analysis referenced adequate and generally appropriate literature and resources.	Analysis referenced limited, partially relevant, and/or inappropriate literature and resources	Analysis referenced few or no relevant, or appropriate literature and resources.
Organizational coherence of the paper	Excellent organizational coherence of paper	Appropriate organizational coherence of paper	Adequate organizational coherence of paper	Somewhat adequate organizational coherence of paper	Little or no logical organizational coherence of paper
APA style	Excellent use of APA style	Proficient use of APA style, making only 1 consistent error	Adequate use of APA style, making 2 consistent errors	Limited, use of APA style, making 3 consistent errors	Little or no attempt to use APA style correctly, making 4 or more consistent errors

**Total Points Earned:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deductions for Incomplete Work:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Professional work quality (0-5)