

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**Early Childhood Education**

ECED 691.001– Policy Perspectives in Early Childhood Education  
3 Credits, Spring 2018  
Tuesdays/ 4:30 – 7:10 pm  
Robinson Hall A 205, Fairfax Campus

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

Admission to the Early Childhood Education program or approval of course instructor.

**University Catalog Course Description**

Explores historical and current trends and issues involving legislation and policy in early childhood education, multilingual education, early childhood special education, and multicultural education. Focuses on historical role of social advocacy, development of advocacy skills, and collaboration and consultation with other professionals and staff in early childhood education of services and context of service delivery. Offered by Graduate School of Education. May not be repeated for credit.

**Course Overview**

Not applicable

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered using a lecture and discussion format.

**Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Describe the legislation and policy-making process related to culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse young children and their families; Describe the continuum of services and the fiscal and regulatory context of service delivery at the local, state, and national levels; Describe the administrative aspects and legal mandates for early childhood programs.
2. Analyze a current policy issue related to the lives of culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse young children and their families.
3. Describe the historical role of social advocacy and the role of educators in advocating for young children to ensure equity and access in service delivery; Identify characteristics of advocates/leaders and analyze own leadership skills; Plan and implement an appropriate awareness/advocacy/leadership response.
4. Demonstrate the ability to implement actions through collaboration and consultation with professional peers and staff.

**Professional Standards** (Council for Exceptional Children and National Association for the Education of Young Children)

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:  
Not Applicable

**Required Texts**

- Garcia, O., & Kleifgen, J. (2010). *Educating emergent bilinguals: Policies, programs, and practices for English Language Learners*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press. ISBN: 9780807751138
- Levine, S. (2008). *School lunch politics: The surprising history of America's favorite welfare program*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780691146195
- Ravitch, D. (2010). *The death and life of the great American school system: How testing and choice are undermining education*. New York, NY: Basic Books. ISBN: 9780465025572
- Rose, E. (2010). *The promise of preschool: From Head Start to universal pre-kindergarten*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199926459
- Zigler, E., Gilliam, W., & Barnett, W. S. (2011). *The pre-k debates: Current controversies and issues*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes. ISBN: 9781598571837

**Recommended Texts**

- American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 9781433805615
- Anyon, J. (2014). *Radical possibilities: Public policy, urban education, and a new social movement*. New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN: 9780415950992
- Chaudry, A. & Morrissey, T. (2017). *Cradle to kindergarten: A new plan to combat inequality*. New York, NY: Russel Sage. ISBN: 9780871545572
- Odom, S. L. (2002). *Widening the circle: Including children with disabilities in preschool programs*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press. ISBN: 9780807741719
- Santa Ana, O. (2004). *Tongue-tied: The lives of multilingual children in public education*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. ISBN: 9780742523838

**Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>	<b>Points</b>
Attendance & Participation	<i>Ongoing</i>	15
Reading Journals	<i>Multiple (9 total)</i>	20
Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary & Process Observer Summary	<i>Multiple</i>	5
Broad Policy Topic/Critical Issue Final Project	<i>FINAL PROJECT TOTAL</i>	60
Part 1: Research Broad Policy Topic		
Locate 2 primary organizations	<i>February 6</i>	2
Subscribe to listserv	<i>February 6</i>	1
Identify 2 supporting facts	<i>February 13</i>	2
Post 3 current news stories	<i>February 27</i>	3
Locate/Develop data table or graph	<i>March 6</i>	1
Identify & read 2 policy or research papers (submit citations)	<i>March 20</i>	2
Interview summary	<i>March 27</i>	5

Part 2: Counter Argument	<i>April 10</i>	5
Part 3: Policy Brief	<i>April 17</i>	15
Part 4: Advocacy Letter	<i>April 24</i>	4
Part 5: Group Presentation	<i>May 1</i>	20
TOTAL		100

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

**Reading Journals** (20 points)

Learning Clusters and Dialogue Groups (see below) will constitute a large part of the face-to-face class meetings. Students assigned to each Learning Cluster will read the same material, as assigned by the instructor. Each Learning Cluster will meet at the start of class. The goal for each Learning Cluster is for students to discuss the assigned readings and their Reading Journal entry to share and discuss their thinking, learning, questions and connections to their own teaching practice and/or educational experiences. During class, each student in their Learning Cluster will complete the Learning Cluster Summary Form, available at the end of the syllabus. Learning Cluster Summary Forms are designed to assist students in facilitating topic discussions in the Dialogue Groups.

Prior to the face-to-face class, each student will complete a **Reading Journal entry** based on the group's assigned reading, *plus the reading assigned to ALL*. A list of criteria to be included in the Reading Journal is at the end of the syllabus. Your Reading Journal entry may be in narrative form or a numbered list of answers to the questions provided. Entries must thoughtfully respond to all questions, be well-written, and in accordance with APA (6th ed.). Students should bring hard or electronic copies of their Reading Journals to class for their Learning Cluster/Dialogue Group (see below).

**Dialogue Groups** (5 points)

Dialogue Groups are intended to be safe spaces for students to come together to understand varying viewpoints on a critical policy issue. Students in each Learning Cluster will be assigned to different Dialogue Groups, arranged to a) "bring together many voices, stories, perspectives," b) engage in "shared inquiry, exploration, and discovery," c) practice "deep listening that fosters respect and understanding," and d) participate in the "shared meaning-making and co-construction of knowledge" (Pruitt & Thomas, 2007, p. 23). Dialogue Groups will provide an opportunity for students to synthesize all viewpoints on the issue (including their own, as well as a certain policy's relevance to their current classroom), and explore broader implications for policy and potential impacts on culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse young children and their families.

Each week, students will rotate through the following roles in their Dialogue Groups: *facilitator*, *process observer*, *recorder*, *timekeeper*, and *reporter*. The *facilitator* will assume responsibility for leading the dialogue session, guiding the group members through the process, and ensuring the process remains authentic (e.g., everyone is heard, group remains on topic). In the last five minutes of the Dialogue Group, the *process observer* will lead a discussion about the fidelity of the process and any issues regarding the evening's dialogue (i.e., areas of strength and for improvement); he/she will then submit a short summary (**Process Observer Summary**) on BB (2 points) immediately following class. The *recorder* will take notes, complete the **Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary** (3 points) with input from the group, and submit the summary on Blackboard immediately following class. Each member of the Dialogue Group will be the recorder and process observer at least one time during the semester. The *timekeeper* will help the group stay within the allotted timeframe. Following Dialogue Group meetings, the class will participate in a whole class discussion. During whole class discussions, it will be the *reporter's* responsibility to share key

points and understandings related to the dialogue topics (e.g., themes, conclusions) and the process. While the reporter will take the lead during whole class discussion, all group members are expected to participate.

### **Broad Policy Topic/Critical Issue Final Project (60 total points)**

A major portion of the grade for this course involves a team project-based learning assignment that covers a broad policy topic area and a team-identified critical issue related to culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse young children and their families. Within the first week of class, students will select a broad topic to be the focus of a project-based learning assignment designed to learn about the various components of policy. The topics are as follows:

- **ESEA/ESSA – Achievement Gap**
  - Focus: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly referred to as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), has just been reauthorized and renamed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). What are the requirements for schools to measure and compare the performance of minority, low income, and special education students? What has been happening as more schools have been identified as “needing improvement? What changes did Congress propose? What are the implications? How does this policy, with its focus on accountability and testing, affect your current classroom and students? Have you had to exclude certain parts of your curriculum in order to focus on tested subjects (reading and math)? Are you evaluated by how well your students perform on mandated tests? Have your students experienced limited/loss of recess or specials or an elongated school day/school year to improve outcomes on mandated tests?
  
- **ESEA & McKinney-Vento Act – Families**
  - Focus: Title I of NCLB specifies rights for families whose children attend high-poverty schools; Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Act includes the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Programs. What are the rights of families and children? What changes are being considered? What are the implications? How does this policy serve, or not, children and their families who are in your classroom, your school?
  
- **ESEA – Bilingual Education**
  - Focus: Title VII of NCLB provides grants for the education of “English Language Learners” (ELLs). What do the regulations say are the rights of children and families under this provision? With the passing of NCLB, Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students (Title III) replaced The Bilingual Education Act of 1968 (Title VII of ESEA). What were the implications of this change? What are the various current proposals being considered as a part of the latest reauthorization? What are the implications of at least one proposal? What services are in place for ELLs in your classroom, your school? How do you think these changes in U.S. language policy impact the young learners in your classroom and their families?
  
- **IDEA – Inclusion**
  - Focus: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that children receiving special education services be educated in the “least restrictive environment.” What provisions of the regulations support inclusion? How are IDEA and ESEA aligned? Do you have inclusion at your current school? In your classroom? Are children receiving special education services educated in a self-

contained classroom or pulled out for certain services? How is the enactment of this policy working/not working in practice? What else may be needed?

- **IDEA – Behavior**

- Focus: Studies have indicated that young children have the highest rates of expulsion; and that African American, Latino and students in special education are disproportionately suspended and expelled. What’s the so-called “school to prison pipeline?” What policies have certain locations (e.g., Washington, DC) passed to address this issue? Are these measures working? What does IDEA require in discipline, suspensions, and expulsion? What are the provisions that can lead to more positive supports for disruptive behavior? What are more promising options? How does your current school handle severe behavior problems? Do you feel you have the supports necessary to deal with difficult behaviors in your current classroom? What kinds of improvements are necessary?

- **Head Start**

- Focus: Head Start began as a part of the “War on Poverty” and offered empowerment opportunities for families. What rights do the regulations still provide for families? How do practices promote or discourage parent leadership? Do you teach in a Head Start program? How has Head Start holistically addressed the needs of the children and the families in your classroom/school? What improvements do you think are necessary to further benefit the children and families with whom you work?

- **Health & Wellness**

- Focus: The National School Lunch/School Breakfast Programs, the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, the D.C. Healthy Schools Act of 2010 and other local school wellness policies, and the Farm-to-School Act of 2015. Do children in your classroom/school come to school hungry? How does the NSLP serve the children in your classroom/school? How is the nutritional quality of the food served? How many children participate in the NSLP at your school/district? Are competitive foods sold in your cafeteria (e.g., chips, candy, soda, etc.)? How do local school wellness policies promote student wellness and prevent and reduce childhood obesity? Does your school have a school wellness policy? What types of components do school wellness policies tend to include (e.g., school wellness champions, school gardens, etc.)? Does your school have a school garden? Does your school participate in a farm-to-school program? Do you see positive impacts in your classroom/school as a result of policies/programs such as these? How could they be improved? Have the students in your school experienced a loss of or limited recess (or physical education) due to an increased focus on testing and academics at your school? What other unintended consequences of education policies impact your students’ health and wellness?

*(Topics may be added or deleted depending on the final class enrollment)*

Over the course of the semester, working individually and as a collaborative team, students will become novice policy analysts in their broad policy topic. Teams will be required to meet in-person or via Blackboard Collaborate. These meetings offer a time for the team to check-in and plan, along with an opportunity to discuss and gain a deeper understanding of the broad policy topic and issue. Additional time will be required for team collaboration and individual student work on this project.

Teams will select and frame a critical issue related to the broad policy topic. After determining an issue of interest that is relevant to culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse children and families, the team will complete a series of assignments leading up to a final group presentation.

As the semester progresses, teams can refine or reframe this issue to garner broad understanding and agreement. As a team, students will build a case to support the issue. Each student is responsible for completing all individual and group assignments.

***Part 1: Research Broad Policy Topic (16 points) (Individual)***

Research the enacted and/or proposed policy/legislation/regulation. Students will do the following:

- Research the history of the policy (including major changes and influential court decisions).
- Identify key definitions relevant to topic.
- Explore their own experiences with this policy (in the classroom/school where they teach, in their own education).
- Locate at least 2 primary organizations that provide credible information on topic
- Subscribe to at least one listserv related to the topic.
- Summarize and appropriately cite at least 2 facts that strongly support the critical issue/argument (include at least two citations in APA format).
- Post at least 3 current news stories on group's Discussion Board thread (write a 2-sentence description of news story and include link to story).
- Locate or develop a data table or graph pertinent to topic from existing statistics (data should be from within last 2 years).
- Identify 2 policy papers or research studies related to the topic or critical issue (minimum of 15 pages and from a credible source; submit citations).
- Interview and gather a story from a family, student, teacher, administrator, legislator, or community activist affected by this policy. Interview should include approximately 10 questions and be conducted in-person or over the phone, if possible. Student will write a one-page summary of their impressions of the interview and what they learned about the policy's relevance/impact on young learners, their teachers, and their families.

***Part 2: Counter Argument (5 points) (Group submits 1)***

Student will write a strong counter argument for this issue (What do the critics say?). They will locate and appropriately cite relevant research that provides evidence for counter argument (approximately 3-5 pages, double spaced).

***Part 3: Policy Brief (15 points) (Group submits 1)***

Students will write an overview of the policy and the issue they have selected describing its relevance to diverse young learners and their families (approximately 5-7 pages, double spaced). Students will do the following:

- Include the history of the policy (influential court decisions, changes to the policy), key definitions, challenges, relevant research, and recommendations for how to improve the policy or its implementation.
- Policy Brief should be well written and formatted using an appropriate newsletter-type template.

***Part 4: Advocacy Letter (5 points) (Individual)***

Students will write a convincing sample letter to a decision-maker or letter to the editor supporting the group's argument (approximately 1 page single-spaced, formal letter format). Students must identify a person and include his/her position and mailing address to which to send the letter.

### ***Part 5: Group Presentation (20 points) (Group submits 1)***

Groups will deliver a 30-minute presentation, as if addressing their target audience, on their Broad Policy Topic/Critical Issue. Presentation may not exceed 30 minutes. They will post the group's Policy Brief on Blackboard for download. Groups will do the following

- Present information in the form of a recorded webinar using Kaltura, Camtasia, Prezis, and/or Powerpoint that will be posted on Blackboard and integrate slides, narration/explanation, etc. in the presentation.
  - Use visuals and integration of multi-media (relevant video, graphics, audio), keeping in mind that creativity is encouraged!
  - Include an overview of Broad Policy Topic/Critical Issue, which makes a strong argument about group's position on topic, including key definitions, important legislation, and relevant research curated by the group.
  - Include the history of the policy (provide a narrative or a graphic timeline of the policy history, including important court decisions and changes).
  - Include at least one pertinent data table or graph that group found.
  - Include how members of group are impacted by this policy in their classroom, school, or own educational experiences.
  - Share an illustrative example(s) or synthesis of stories gathered (from interviews) that highlight the importance of the Broad Policy Topic/Critical Issue to diverse children and their families.
  - Include a montage of current news stories.
  - Include a discussion of lessons learned about the issue/recommendations for the future.
  - Include instructions for how to be an advocate for this issue (Who could you write a letter to? What events could you participate in? What organizations could you support or contact for more information?).
  - Include list of references. (**Hint:** *You should read and list all of the assigned readings on the syllabus and supplemental readings posted on Blackboard on your topic, in addition to the ones you find on your own.*)
  - Demonstrate that the group works well as a team and mutually strengthens individual student contributions.
  - Answer classmates' and professor's questions either during class or via Discussion Board on Blackboard.
- **Other Requirements**

### **Attendance and Participation**

Because active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning, preparation for and participation in in-class activities will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period. Participation points will be deducted due to an excessive number of absences. . (It is your responsibility to attend all class sessions. You are held accountable for all information from each class session, whether you are present or not. A make-up assignment will be required in the case of an absence. Reasons for any absence must be reported to the instructor in writing.) *If a reading journal is due the week the student is going to be absent, the student is required to email the*

*reading journal to his/her Dialogue Group members (and cc the instructor) before the class so as to not impede the other members' learning/discussion of the readings.*

- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as is evidenced by their ability to discuss and write about the concepts presented and examined in the texts as well as participate fully in related activities.
- Students are actively involved in in-class and online learning experiences as is evidenced by (a) participating in all activities, (b) engaging in small and large group discussions, (c) completing written work related to the activities, and (d) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.
- Professional dispositions are to be displayed at all times while interacting with the instructor and other students. **Cell phones are not to be used during class. Laptops are to be used for instructional purposes only.**

**Note:** To determine whether the campus is closed due to inclement weather, call 703-993-1000 or go to [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).

### **Written Assignments**

*Assignments for face-to-face classes are due by 4:30 p.m. on the afternoon of class.* Assignments are due on the assigned day. Extensions for assignments must be requested in writing *before* the assignment is due. Extensions only will be granted for extenuating circumstances. Grade point deductions will be taken for every additional day an assignment is late. All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content and presentation. The American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition (APA) style will be followed for all written work. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Portions of the APA manual appear at the Style Manuals link on the Mason library website at <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=39979>. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support.

Students will do the following:

1. Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
2. Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.
3. Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate. (Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
4. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.
5. Type the paper with double spacing, indented paragraphs, 1-inch margins all around, and 12-point Times New Roman font.

- **Grading**

A = 95-100   A- = 90-94   B+ = 87-89   B = 80-86   C = 70-79   F = < 70

Incomplete (IN): This grade may be given to students who are passing a course but who may be unable to complete scheduled coursework for a cause beyond reasonable control.

All CEHD undergraduate and graduate students are held to the university grading policies as described in the Academic Policies section of the current catalog, which can be accessed at <http://catalog.gmu.edu>. Those students enrolled in a CEHD Licensure Graduate Certificate program,



however, must earn a B- or better in all licensure coursework. A degree-seeking graduate student will be dismissed after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades (C or F) in graduate courses. A 3.0 grade point average is required for completion of the graduate degree.

### Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>.

### Class Schedule

	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1 January 23	Class introductions Review syllabus Policy Process Why study policy / learn advocacy? Role of education in democracy	<i>Advocating for Young Children: A Preservice Teacher Education Project</i>	In-class assignment
Week 2 January 30	Historic Factors Affecting Education Legislation vs. Litigation Current Policy Context, Challenges, and Opportunities Emerging Issues and Trends  Video: <i>Ed-Talk: High Quality Pre-K: Taking the Road Less Travelled</i>  Policy Focus: History of Preschool in U.S.	ALL – <i>State of Preschool 2016 Executive Summary</i> <i>Rose, Ch. 1-5</i> <i>Responding to the Tennessee Pre-K Study</i> <i>CRSRs*: Early Childcare and Education Programs in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress: Background and Funding; Head Start: Background and Funding</i>	IN-CLASS: Discussion Groups – History of Preschool in U.S.  DUE: <b>Sign up for policy topic for group project</b>
Week 3 February 6	Preschool Policy  Policy Focus: Targeted vs. Universal Preschool	ALL – <i>Preschool, A State-by-State Update</i> <i>More than a Quarter of State-Funded Preschool Seats Went Unfilled this Year</i> <i>CRSR: Preschool Development Grants and Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grants</i> Group A – Zigler, Gilliam & Barnett, Ch. 3	IN-CLASS: Learning Cluster Summary Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief  DUE: Reading Journal <b>Part Ii: Locate 2 primary organizations (Individual)</b> <b>Part Iii: Subscribe to 1 relevant listserv (Individual)</b>

		<p>Group B – Zigler, Gilliam &amp; Barnett, Ch. 4</p> <p>Group C – Zigler, Gilliam &amp; Barnett, Ch. 5</p> <p>Group D – Zigler, Gilliam &amp; Barnett, Ch. 6</p> <p>Group E – Zigler, Gilliam &amp; Barnett, Ch. 7</p>	
<p><i>Week 4</i> <i>February</i> <i>13</i></p>	<p>High Quality Personnel</p> <p>Video: <i>Linda Darling-Hammond on “What ESEA Should Do to Improve Teacher Quality and Equity”</i></p> <p>Policy Focus: Teacher Credentials vs. Competencies and Supports</p>	<p>ALL – <i>Early et al (2007) Teacher Turnover, Teacher Quality, and Student Achievement in DCPS</i></p> <p>Group A – Zigler, Gilliam &amp; Barnett, Ch 8</p> <p>Group B – Zigler, Gilliam &amp; Barnett, Ch 9</p> <p>Group C – Zigler, Gilliam &amp; Barnett, Ch 10</p> <p>Group D – Zigler, Gilliam &amp; Barnett, Ch 11</p> <p>Group E – Zigler, Gilliam &amp; Barnett, Ch 12</p>	<p>IN-CLASS: Learning Cluster Summary Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief</p> <p>DUE: Reading Journal <b>Part Iiii: Identify 2 supporting facts (Individual)</b></p>
<p><i>Week 5</i> <i>February</i> <i>20</i></p>	<p>Poverty, Welfare Reform &amp; Childcare Policy Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</p> <p>Video: <i>Dr. Colleen Vesely’s Talk on 12/6/17 (see PowerPoint slide presentation on BB)</i></p>	<p>ALL – <i>Cradle to Kindergarten, Ch. 6</i></p> <p><i>CRSRs: Welfare Reform: Comments from the Public on TANF Reauthorization; Trends in Child Care Spending from the CCDF and TANF</i></p>	<p>IN-CLASS: Learning Cluster Summary Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief</p>
<p><i>Week 6</i> <i>Feb 27</i></p>	<p>Accountability, School Choice, Charter Schools, and Public School Debate</p> <p>Video: <i>Diane Ravitch on “Is a Public School a Public Good, or a Shoestore?”</i></p>	<p>ALL - <i>CRSR: Basic Concepts and Technical Considerations in Educational Assessment: A Primer</i></p> <p>Group A – <i>Anyon, Ch. 2-3</i></p> <p>Group B – <i>Ravitch, Ch. 2</i></p>	<p>IN-CLASS: Learning Cluster Summary Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief</p> <p>DUE: Reading Journal <b>Part Iiv: Post 3 current</b></p>

	Policy Focus: Accountability, Choice & Public Schools	Group C – Ravitch, Ch. 8 Group D – <i>Below the Bubble: “Educational Triage” and the Texas Accountability System</i> Group E – <i>School Composition and the Black-White Achievement Gap</i>	<b>news stories on Broad Topic Discussion Board (Individual)</b>
Week 7 March 6	Documentary: <i>Waiting for Superman</i>  Policy Focus: School Choice and Charter Schools	ALL – <i>Ravitch, Ch. 7 Grading Waiting for Superman</i> <i>CRSR: Charter School Programs Authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: A Primer</i>	IN-CLASS: Discussion Groups – School Choice & Charter Schools  DUE: Reading Journal <b>Part 1v: Locate or develop a data table or graph from existing statistics on topic (Individual)</b>
March 13	No Class – Spring Break		
Week 8 March 20	Language Policy Bilingual Education Immersion Programs Monolingual or “English Only”  <i>Video: Teresa McCarty on “So That Any Child May Succeed – Indigenous Pathways toward Justice and the Promise of Brown</i>  Policy Focus: Bilingual Education	ALL – <i>CRSR: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as Amended by the No Child Left Behind Act: A Primer (Title III- Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students)</i> Garcia & Kleifgen, Ch. 3 <i>Santa Ana, Part II: The History of Silencing Children</i> Group A – <i>Against the Undertow: Language-Minority Education Policy and Politics in the “Age of Accountability”</i> Group B – <i>Bilingual Two-Way Immersion Programs Benefit Academic Achievement</i>	IN-CLASS: Learning Cluster Summary Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief  DUE: Reading Journal <b>Part 1vi: Identify &amp; read 2 policy or research papers on critical issue (submit citations) (Individual)</b>

		<p>Group C – <i>Educational Effectiveness of Bilingual Education</i></p> <p>Group D – <i>Monolingual and Proud of It</i></p> <p>Group E – <i>From ELLs to Emergent Bilinguals</i></p>	
<p>Week 9 March 27</p>	<p>Inclusion Policy and Practice</p> <p>Documentary: <i>Including Samuel</i></p> <p>Policy Focus: Including Young Children with Disabilities</p>	<p>ALL – <i>The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Funding: A Primer; The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C: Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities</i></p> <p>Group A – <i>Odom, Buysse &amp; Soukakou, 2011</i></p> <p>Group B – <i>The Education of Students with Disabilities: Alignment between ESEA &amp; IDEA</i></p> <p>Group C – <i>Is Inclusivity an Indicator of Quality of Care for Children with Autism in Special Education</i></p> <p>Group D – <i>Effectiveness of Special Education: Is Placement the Critical Factor?</i></p> <p>Group E – <i>The Least Dangerous Assumption: A Challenge to Create a New Paradigm</i></p>	<p>IN-CLASS: Learning Cluster Summary Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief</p> <p>DUE: Reading Journal <b>Part 1vii: Interview Summary (Individual)</b></p>
<p>Week 10 April 3</p>	<p>High Quality Personnel</p> <p>Video: <i>Linda Darling-Hammond on “What ESEA Should Do to Improve Teacher Quality and Equity”</i></p> <p>Policy Focus: Teacher Credentials vs.</p>	<p>ALL – <i>Early et al (2007) CRSR: Teacher Quality Issues in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Teacher Turnover, Teacher Quality, and Student Achievement in DCPS</i></p>	<p>IN-CLASS: Learning Cluster Summary Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief</p>

	Competencies and Supports	Group A – Zigler, Gilliam & Barnett, Ch 8 Group B – Zigler, Gilliam & Barnett, Ch 9 Group C – Zigler, Gilliam & Barnett, Ch 10 Group D – Zigler, Gilliam & Barnett, Ch 11 Group E – Zigler, Gilliam & Barnett, Ch 12	
<i>Week 11 April 10</i>	Mental Health and Challenging Behaviors School-to-Prison Pipeline  Video: <i>Expulsion and Suspension Prevention Webinar</i>  Policy Focus: Preschool Suspension and Expulsion	ALL – <i>OSSE’s Report on Reducing Out-of-School Expulsions and Suspension in DC’s Public and Public Charter Schools</i> <i>CRSR: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Discipline Provisions in P.L. 108-446</i> Group A – Whitted, 2013 Group B – Perry et al., 2007 Group C – American Academy of Pediatrics, 2013 Group D – Gilliam & Shahar, 2006 Group E – Green et al., 2006	IN-CLASS: Learning Cluster Summary Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief  DUE: Reading Journal <b>Part 2: Counter Argument (Group submits 1)</b>
<i>Week 12 April 17</i>	Health and Wellness  <i>Documentary: TED Talk: What’s Wrong with School Lunches</i>  Policy Focus: The National School Lunch/School Breakfast Programs	ALL – <i>Levine, Ch. 2-5 How School Lunch Became the Latest Political Battleground</i> <i>CRSR: School Meals Programs and Other USDA Nutrition Programs: A Primer</i>	IN-CLASS: Discussion Groups – History of The National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs  DUE: Reading Journal <b>Part 3: Policy Brief (Group submits 1)</b>
<i>Week 13 April 24</i>	Health and Wellness Alternative Programming	ALL – <i>CRSR: Tracking the</i>	IN-CLASS: Learning Cluster Summary

	<p>to Address Child Nutrition Crisis in U.S. (Farm-to-School, School Gardens, etc.)</p> <p>Video: <i>Whitney Cohen on "Speaking on Changing the Nature of Education"</i></p> <p>Documentary: <i>Cafeteria Man</i></p> <p>Policy Focus: Local School Wellness Policies, School Gardens, Farm-to-School</p>	<p><i>Next Child Nutrition Reauthorization: An Overview</i></p> <p>Group A – <i>Bearing Fruit – Farm to School Evaluation Report</i></p> <p>Group B – <i>Blair, 2009</i></p> <p>Group C – <i>Joshi, Azuma &amp; Feenstra, 2008</i></p> <p>Group D – <i>Williams &amp; Dixon, 2013</i></p> <p>Group E – <i>McNamee, 2010 &amp; Rebuttal to Cultivating Failure</i></p>	<p>Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary</p> <p>Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief</p> <p>DUE:</p> <p>Reading Journal</p> <p><b>Part 4: Advocacy Letter (Individual)</b></p>
<p><i>Week 14</i> <i>May 1</i></p>	<p>Final Reflections</p> <p>Advocacy Opportunities</p>		<p>DUE:</p> <p><b>Part 5: Group Presentation must be posted to Discussion Board by December 6.</b></p>
<p><i>Week 15</i> <i>May 8</i></p>	<p>NO CLASS</p>	<p><i>Reading Days</i></p>	
<p><i>Week 16</i> <i>May 15</i></p>	<p>NO CLASS</p>	<p>FINALS WEEK</p>	<p>View ALL Group Presentations and comment by May 8</p>

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

### Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

### GMU Policies and Resources for Students

#### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.

- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

*Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>.

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website: <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>.**

## Assessment Rubric(s)

### Reading Journal

(Please include the following criteria in your reading journal in narrative form or a numbered list of answers to the following questions.)

Date and Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

APA reference for assigned reading (please be sure to include page numbers)

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1. What problem or question does the reading address?
2. What are the main ideas and concepts presented?
3. What evidence is offered in support of the position taken (examples, credible, relevant)?
4. What are the counter-arguments to the ideas/concepts presented?
5. What conclusions are reached?
6. What are the broader implications?
7. How does this topic/issue impact culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse young children and their families?
8. How do you connect with the reading (to your own personal experiences, to teaching in your current classroom, to what you've read in this course – this week or other weeks, to what you've read in other courses)?



## Learning Cluster Summary

(To be used for your own note taking and organization during Learning Cluster discussion; you do not need to turn in.)

Date and Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Assigned Reading(s): \_\_\_\_\_

1. List your shared understanding of the main ideas and concepts.
2. List shared conclusions.
3. List shared implications
4. List shared questions about this topic or issue.
5. List/brainstorm relevance to diverse young learners and their families.
6. Relevance to your teaching practice? To your experiences in your current classroom? To your own educational experiences?

## **Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary**

(Recorder must submit to BB at the end of class)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

### Readings Discussed

### Participants and Roles

Facilitator:

Timekeeper:

Recorder:

Reporter:

Process Observer:

Other:

1. What themes emerged across the readings (main ideas and concepts?)
2. What did you learn?
3. Perceived impact on diverse learners and their families?
4. What are the broader implications?
5. List points of agreement.
6. List points of disagreement.
7. List questions or additional information needed.

## **Process Observer Criteria**

(Process observer should write a short paragraph addressing the following questions and submit to BB at the end of class.

1. We came prepared to class.
2. We maintained our focus.
3. We listened for deep understanding.
4. We asked “honest questions”, inquiring to learn.
5. We spoke for ourselves.
6. We explored assumptions.
7. We acknowledged each other’s contributions.
8. We contributed exceptional effort to the fidelity of the process.
9. We acknowledged emotions.
10. We confronted non-productive behaviors.

Areas of Strength

Areas of Improvement