

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

ECED 691.001 Policy Perspectives in Early Childhood Education  
3 Credits, Spring 2019  
Mondays/ 4:30 – 7:10 pm  
Aquia 219, Fairfax Campus

**Faculty**

Name: Carley Fisher-Maltese, PhD  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Office Location: Thompson Hall 1307, Fairfax Campus  
Office Phone: 703-993-4848  
Email Address: [cfisherm@gmu.edu](mailto:cfisherm@gmu.edu)

**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**

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 9781433805615

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

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**

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

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).

Assignments	Due Dates	Points
Attendance & Participation	<i>Ongoing</i>	<b>15</b>
Reading Journals	<i>Multiple (4 total)</i>	<b>8</b>
Discussion Board Posts	<i>Multiple (6 total)</i>	<b>12</b>
Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary & Process Observer Summary	<i>Multiple</i>	<b>5</b>
Broad Policy Topic/Critical Issue Final Project	<i>FINAL PROJECT TOTAL</i>	<b>60</b>
Part 1: Research Broad Policy Topic		
Locate 2 primary organizations	<i>Feb 11</i>	<b>2</b>
Subscribe to listserv	<i>Feb 11</i>	<b>1</b>
Identify 2 supporting facts	<i>Feb 18</i>	<b>2</b>
Post 3 current news stories	<i>Mar 4</i>	<b>3</b>

Locate/Develop data table or graph	<i>Mar 18</i>	<b>1</b>
Identify & read 2 policy or research papers (submit citations)	<i>Mar 25</i>	<b>2</b>
Interview summary	<i>Apr 8</i>	<b>5</b>
Part 2: Counter Argument	<i>Apr 22</i>	<b>5</b>
Part 3: Policy Brief	<i>Apr 29</i>	<b>15</b>
Part 4: Group Presentation	<i>May 6</i>	<b>20</b>
Part 5: Advocacy Letter	<i>May 10</i>	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

### **Reading Journals (8 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 use the Learning Cluster Summary Form, available at the end of the syllabus, as a guide for 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, if there is something listed on the Class Schedule*. 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).

### **Discussion Board Posts (12 points)**

For alternate weeks, students will post a two-paragraph response to weekly readings on the Discussion Board in their Dialogue Group's Forum.

### **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/future 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), was 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? How is Head Start different than VPI? Why does Virginia have both VPI and Head Start programs? 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, single spaced, newsletter-type template). 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: Group Presentation (20 points) (Group submits 1)***

Groups will deliver a 15-20-minute presentation, as if addressing their target audience, on their Broad Policy Topic/Critical Issue. Presentation may not exceed 20 minutes. Groups will do the following:

- Present information in the form of a Prezi or Powerpoint that will be posted on Blackboard with the group's Policy Brief.
- 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 after or during presentation

***Part 5: 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). Alternatively, students can write an advocacy letter on a different policy topic covered in the semester that they feel passionate about. Students must identify a person and include his/her position and mailing address to which to send the letter.

- **Other Requirements**

**Attendance, Participation, & Professional Dispositions (15 points)**

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

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period.
- Students use laptops and personal devices for instructional purposes only.
- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as 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 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.
- Students display professional dispositions at all times while interacting with the instructor and other students.
- Students complete participation activities across the semester that complement the scheduled course topic. Instructors will periodically collect artifacts from the activities. Students in attendance and who actively engage in the learning experience will receive credit for their efforts. Graded participation activities are not announced and are implemented at the discretion of the instructor.

Note: Participation points will be deducted due to an excessive number of absences. It is students' responsibility to attend all class sessions. They are held accountable for all information from each class session, whether they 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.*

## Written Assignments

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 if an extension is not arranged before the assignment is due. 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 and Topics

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
<i>Week 1 Jan 28</i>	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
<i>Week 2 Feb 4</i>	Historic Factors Affecting Early Childhood Education Current Policy Context, Challenges, and Opportunities Head Start Federal Child Care and Early Education Programs and Tax Provisions Child Care and Development Block Grant  <i>CRSRs*: Early Childcare and Education Programs in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress: Background and Funding; Head Start: Background and Funding</i>  Video: <i>Ed-Talk: High Quality Pre-K: Taking the Road Less Travelled</i>  Policy Focus: History of Preschool in U.S.	ALL – <i>Rose, Ch. 1-5</i> NIERR’s <i>State of Preschool 2017 Executive Summary</i>	DUE: Post a two-paragraph response to the readings on Discussion Board on your Dialogue Group’s Forum. <b>Sign up for policy topic for group project on Google Doc.</b>
<i>Week 3 Feb 11</i>	Preschool Policy Preschool Development Grants	ALL – NIERR’s <i>State of Preschool, A State-by-State Update</i>	IN-CLASS: Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief

	<p>Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grants</p> <p><i>CRSR: Preschool Development Grants and Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grants</i></p> <p>Policy Focus: Targeted vs. Universal Preschool</p>	<p>Group A – Zigler, Gilliam &amp; Barnett, Ch. 3</p> <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>DUE: Reading Journal</p> <p><b>Part 1i: Locate 2 primary organizations (Individual)</b></p> <p><b>Part 1ii: Subscribe to 1 relevant listserv (Individual)</b></p>
<p><i>Week 4 Feb 18 (No Face-to-face class, alternative online assignment)</i></p>	<p>Poverty, Welfare Reform &amp; Childcare Policy Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</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><i>Video: Dr. Colleen Vesely's Talk on 12/6/17 (see PowerPoint slide presentation on BB)</i></p>	<p><i>ALL – Cradle to Kindergarten, Ch. 6</i></p>	<p>DUE: After doing the reading and watching the video of Dr. Vesely's lecture, post a two-paragraph response to the video and readings on Discussion Board on your Dialogue Group's Forum. Respond to at least two other classmates' posts.</p> <p><b>Part 1iii: Identify 2 supporting facts (Individual)</b></p>
<p><i>Week 5 Feb 25</i></p>	<p>NAEYC 2019 Public Policy Forum Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington</p>		<p>Come (if you can) to the Policy Forum during regular class time. We will discuss transportation and carpooling in class. <i>Students who are not able to attend will have an alternative online assignment.</i></p>

			<p>DUE: Post a two-paragraph response to the experience on Discussion Board on your Dialogue Group's Forum. Respond to at least two other classmates' posts.</p>
<p><i>Week 5 March 4</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><i>CRSR: Basic Concepts and Technical Considerations in Educational Assessment: A Primer</i></p> <p>Policy Focus: Accountability, Choice &amp; Public Schools</p>	<p>ALL – <i>Booher-Jennings, Below the Bubble: "Educational Triage" and the Texas Accountability System</i> Group A – <i>Anyon, Ch. 2-3</i> Group B – <i>Ravitch, Ch. 2</i> Group C – <i>Ravitch, Ch. 8</i> Group D – <i>CRSR: Basic Concepts and Technical Considerations in Educational Assessment: A Primer</i> Group E – <i>School Composition and the Black-White Achievement Gap</i></p>	<p>IN-CLASS: Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief</p> <p>DUE: Reading Journal <b>Part Iiv: Post 3 current news stories on Broad Topic Discussion Board (Individual)</b></p>
<p><i>SPRING BREAK No Class Mar 11</i></p>			
<p><i>Week 6 Mar 18</i></p>	<p>Documentary: <i>Waiting for Superman</i></p> <p><i>CRSR: Charter School Programs Authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: A Primer</i></p> <p>Policy Focus: School Choice and Charter Schools</p>	<p>ALL – <i>Ravitch, Ch. 7</i></p>	<p>DUE: Post a two-paragraph response to the readings on Discussion Board on your Dialogue Group's Forum.</p> <p><b>Part 1v: Locate or develop a data table or graph from existing statistics on topic (Individual)</b></p>

<p><i>Week 7</i> <i>Mar 25</i></p>	<p>Language Policy Bilingual Education Immersion Programs Monolingual or “English Only”</p> <p><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></p> <p>Policy Focus: Bilingual Education</p>	<p>ALL – Garcia &amp; Kleifgen, Ch. 3</p> <p>Group A – <i>Against the Undertow: Language-Minority Education Policy and Politics in the “Age of Accountability”</i></p> <p>Group B – <i>Bilingual Two-Way Immersion Programs Benefit Academic Achievement</i></p> <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>IN-CLASS: Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief</p> <p>DUE: Reading Journal <b>Part 1vi: Identify &amp; read 2 policy or research papers on critical issue (submit citations) (Individual)</b></p>
<p><i>Week 8</i> <i>Apr 1</i></p>	<p><i>Video: Teresa McCarty on “So That Any Child May Succeed – Indigenous Pathways toward Justice and the Promise of Brown</i></p> <p><i>CRSRs: Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Programs and Unaccompanied Alien Children; Indian Elementary-Secondary Education Programs Background, and Issues</i></p>	<p>ALL – Santa Ana, <i>Part II: The History of Silencing Children</i></p>	<p>DUE: Post a two-paragraph response to the reading on Discussion Board on your Dialogue Group’s Forum.</p>

<p><i>Week 9 Apr 8</i></p>	<p>Inclusion Policy and Practice Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities</p> <p>Documentary: <i>Including Samuel</i></p> <p><i>CRSRs: 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>Policy Focus: Including Young Children with Disabilities</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><i>Week 10 Apr 15</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><i>CRSR: Teacher Quality Issues in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Teacher Turnover, Teacher Quality, and Student Achievement in DCPS</i></p> <p>Policy Focus: Teacher Credentials vs. Competencies and Supports</p>	<p>ALL – <i>Early et al (2007)</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>DUE: Post a two-paragraph response to the readings on Discussion Board on your Dialogue Group’s Forum.</p>

<p><i>Week 11</i> <i>Apr 22</i></p>	<p>Mental Health and Challenging Behaviors School-to-Prison Pipeline</p> <p><i>CRSR: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Discipline Provisions in P.L. 108-446</i></p> <p>Policy Focus: Preschool Suspension and Expulsion</p>	<p>ALL – <i>OSSE’s Report on Reducing Out-of-School Expulsions and Suspension in DC’s Public and Public Charter Schools</i> Group A – <i>Whitted, 2013</i> Group B – <i>Perry et al., 2007</i> Group C – <i>American Academy of Pediatrics, 2013</i> Group D – <i>Gilliam &amp; Shahar, 2006</i> Group E – <i>Green et al., 2006</i></p>	<p>IN-CLASS: Dialogue Group Synthesis Summary Dialogue Group Reflection and Debrief</p> <p>DUE: NO Reading Journal <b>Part 2: Counter Argument (Group submits 1)</b></p>
<p><i>Week 12</i> <i>Apr 29</i></p>	<p>Health and Wellness National School Lunch and Breakfast Program Block Grant Funding for Child Nutrition Programs Alternative Programming to Address Child Nutrition Crisis in U.S. (Farm-to-School, School Gardens, etc.)</p> <p><i>Documentary: TED Talk: What’s Wrong with School Lunches, Cafeteria Man</i></p> <p><i>CRSR: School Meals Programs and Other USDA Nutrition Programs: A Primer</i></p> <p>Policy Focus: The National School Lunch/School Breakfast Programs</p>	<p>ALL – <i>Levine, Ch. 2-5 How School Lunch Became the Latest Political Battleground, McNamee, 2010</i></p>	<p>DUE: Post a two-paragraph response to the readings on Discussion Board on your Dialogue Group’s Forum.</p> <p>DUE: <b>Part 3: Policy Brief (Group submits 1)</b></p>

<p><i>Week 14</i> <i>May 6</i></p>	<p>Final Group Presentations in Class</p> <p>Final Reflections on Course</p>		<p>DUE: <b>Final Group Presentations</b> BRING REFRESHMENTS, IF YOU LIKE!</p> <p><b>Part 4: Advocacy Letter</b> <b>(Individual) – Due by May 10</b></p>
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\* Congressional Research Service Reports (CRSR) are available at <https://www.everycrsreport.com>

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 prompts 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