

A green chalkboard with two pieces of pink chalk and some faint white chalk markings. The chalk is positioned in the lower-left quadrant, and the markings are scattered across the board. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Overview of American Public Education: Central vs. Local Control and Equity

**Presented by Brenda Wright and
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Overview of American Public Education

- Universal education for all its citizens is the cornerstone of democracy in the United States.
- All levels of government: federal, state and local have a role to play.



Overview of American Public Education

- Today, the United States has 50 states and 7 U.S. territories:
 - *(US. Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Midway Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Canal Zone, and Puerto Rico)*
 - *over 15,000 school districts.*



Overview of American Public Education

- The structure of shared power comes as a result of the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
 - *“the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States...”*





Overview of American Public Education

- The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land and decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court affect all federal and state laws and regulations.
- The rules and regulations of local school boards affect only the conduct of employees and students in a single school district.

Overview of American Public Education

- As a result of shared role, there is a lot of variation in schools, includes:
 - *how many days children attend school*
 - *What is included in curriculum*
 - *how teachers are trained*





Overview of American Public Education

The federal government is involved with education for four basic reasons.

1. Promotion of democracy
2. Equity of educational opportunity
3. National productivity
4. National defense.

Overview of American Public Education

The federal role has increased due to increase in student population:

- At start of 20th Century, the nation grew from approximately 15 million students enrolled in K-12 public school to nearly 47 million today.



Overview of American Public Education

- Progress can be seen as a result of an increased role in high school graduation rates:
 - *In 1900, only 6.4% of 17 year-olds were graduating from high school*
 - *Today: more than 72% graduate (national average)*





Overview of American Public Education

Federal legislation and U.S. Supreme Court decisions that have made greatest impacts on American education:



Overview of American Public Education: Greatest Impacts

- 1917 - **Smith-Hughes Act** – considered a landmark decision.
 - *First legislation to provide direct federal program support for schools.*
 - *Reasons for passing - by 1917, enrollment of 14-17 year-olds increased from 7% to 30% in under 30 years due to immigration.*

Overview of American Public Education: Greatest Impacts

- 1954 - **Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas**
 - *Supreme Court decision ruled that “Separate educational facilities for children of color are inherently unequal”.*
 - *This was an historic first step toward equal access to an adequate education in the long and still unfinished journey toward equality in American education.*

Overview of American Public Education: Greatest Impacts

- 1965 - **The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**, Part of Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty
 - *Provides federal funds to help low-income students.*
 - *Federal programs such as Title I, Head Start, and bilingual education began with this Act.*

Overview of American Public Education: Greatest Impacts

- 1972 - **Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972**
 - *becomes law prohibiting discrimination based on sex in all aspects of education.*





Overview of American Public Education: Greatest Impacts

- 2001 - No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) - signed into law by President George W. Bush.
 - *The law reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965.*
 - *Holds schools accountable for student achievement levels in all segments of the population and provides penalties for schools that do not make adequate yearly progress toward meeting the goals of NCLB.*



Overview of American Public Education

Closing Remarks:

- Federal dollars have shrunk in comparison to increasing needs for such programs as social security and Medicare,
- The federal government has focused efforts on equity issues in education.



Overview of American Public Education

Closing Remarks:

Closing the educational achievement gap between low-income and high-income students and between white students and minority students is now a national priority through the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).



Overview of American Public Education

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