

It Starts with a Definition:
What Poverty Means to School Personnel
and How it Impacts Instructional Practice

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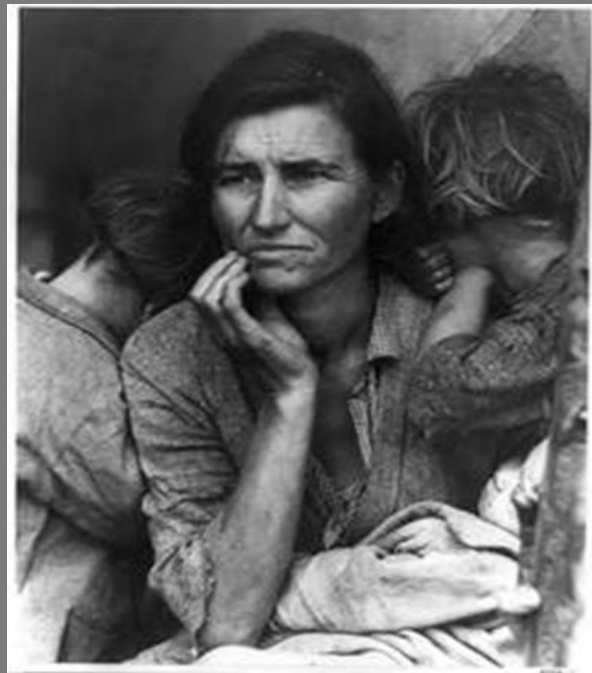
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What Does Poverty Look Like





45%

52%



27% - 15%

68% - 25%



Defining Poverty



Hopeless Hungry
Violent Envious
Different
Pitied
Poor

P
O
V
E
R
T
Y

POVERTY



As Defined by Educators

Angry Torn Oppressed Crave
Uninvolved Overwhelmed Aware
Trapped Embarrassed Ostracized
Defeated Restricted
Outsider Coping

What We Already Know about Students in Poverty Conditions

- Economic conditions impact school climate
- Limited academic opportunities
- Behavioral problems
- At-risk
- Concerns with learning
- Stereotypes



Raise Your Hand If...

- Lived with a relative
- Limited traveling experiences
- Shopped at Goodwill
- Had familiar meals
- Wanted to be someone else



What Kids in Poverty Would Like to Really Say...

"Quit telling me you're going to call my mom. I don't have one."

"I don't have a mailbox. I live in a car."

"I can't go on the field trip. I don't get paid until the end of the month."

"I missed school to translate for my parents."

"Don't worry about my birthday. No one ever does."



Focus for Teachers: Focus On

- Classroom not living conditions
- Respect and dignity for all
- Different lifestyles
- Capabilities instead of incapacabilities
- The meaning of school
- High expectations



The Teachers Said...

- **Poverty is sometimes invisible**
- **Can't pass our judgments on them**
- **Convince others that everyone on the campus needs to understand poverty**
- **Sadness is abundant (in these children), we can provide abundant joy**
- **More training is needed (for understanding)**

Instructional Strategies

- Have clear and high expectations
- Complete as much work as possible at school
- Create safe classrooms where “no’s” are allowed
- Provide several choices for completing assignments
- Assure “basic” facts are reinforced
- Create a climate of success
- Provide extra supplies
- Include “all” family members
- ENGAGE the student in the learning process



**"POVERTY
IS NOT AN
ACCIDENT.
LIKE SLAVERY
AND APARTHEID,
IT IS MAN-MADE
AND CAN BE
REMOVED
BY THE ACTIONS
OF HUMAN BEINGS."**

-Nelson Mandela

To the world
you may be just
a teacher but to
your students
you are a HERO!



For them....

