Assignment #3: Best Practices

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 An educator is responsible for many things. One of the many things that an educator is responsible for is understanding what is taking place within the education system in regards to teaching strategies, understanding standards, and understanding their students. One of the most important tasks that an educator has is to know the current, research-supported best practices that can be found within the education system. Understanding the best practices within the education system can allow an educator to determine if they can be utilized within their classroom setting. It is also important for educators to know how best practices contribute to the education setting. Having a good understanding of best practices can then allow educators and educational leaders to know how they will prepare for future trends within the setting of education.

**Best Practices in Education**

 In the education system, it is extremely important for an educator to understand best practices that can be found within the education field. In order for an educator to know what best practices are, it is important that they know what best practices within the education system means. Best practices within the education system means activities or teaching methods that are engaging and allow students to perform at their highest (Hargreaves & Fullan, 2015) as demonstrated by current research. By understanding what a best practice is within the education field, an educator can then look to see what the current best practices are. An important best practice that can be used within the classroom setting is for the teacher to set up for the next activity that the students will be completing while they are working on a current activity (Estai & Bunt, 2016). Doing this can allow an educator to ensure that transition between activities is smooth and does not allow for any sort of free time for the students in the classroom (Estai & Bunt, 2016). In other words, keeping the students busy in the classroom keeps them engaged and does not allow them time to get off task between the transitions that are taking place. Another important best practice that can be found within the education field is having a good understanding of the students who are in the classroom setting (Lo & Hew, 2017). Having a good understanding of your students can allow an educator to determine if using different teaching strategies would be beneficial in the classroom in question, which leads to looking at other best practices that can benefit students. A flipped classroom is a best practice of having students do content at home that is typically taught in class, and the material that is typically done at home will be done in the classroom (Gilboy, Heinerichs, & Pazzaglia, 2015). Going back to the best practice of knowing your students would allow a teacher who has a good understanding of their students to be able to determine if the flipped classroom best practice would work for them. In a classroom setting in which students have good access to internet at home, then a flipped classroom might work well in that classroom setting (Gilboy, Heinerichs, & Pazzaglia, 2015). However, a concern to a flipped classroom setting is that some students might not have the proper internet connection when they are at home to do the material that is supposed to be done outside the classroom setting (Lo & Hew, 2017). If an educator knows that a student or many students in the classroom will not have access to internet outside of the classroom, then it would not be smart to use many strategies that would require this of the students at home. In other words, the strategy of knowing the students and what works best for them is one of the most important best practices in the classroom setting. The reason is because if a teacher does not know the students then it could mean that the teacher is not setting up a classroom setting that is engaging or meaningful for the students in question. Another important best practice that needs to be understood is having a school community in which there are strong expectations in place as well as educators who truly believe that the students are going to be successful (Balakrishnan, & Gan, 2016). This best practice is one in which teachers have to believe in every one of their students and will do everything possible to help them be successful in their classroom.

 Even though there are best practices that might be good for students, there could be reasons why they are not adopted within the classroom setting. For example, one of the downfalls to the flipped classroom setting is that an educator might not feel comfortable with having students do the lecture or activities at home (Lo & Hew, 2017). Another reason why teachers might not use the flipped classroom method is because they might not be properly trained on the method and they do not know how to do it (Lo & Hew, 2017). When looking at best practices within the education system, one reason why teachers and school leaders might not implement them into the classroom setting is due to the lack of training and funding for the programs (Grant, Tamim, Brown, Sweeney, Ferguson, & Jones, 2015). If there is not funding in place to train teachers on the best practice, then it would be really difficult for a school leadership team to try and implement it into the school setting. The best practice of knowing the students and knowing their needs might not be met by the teacher because they might not have the necessary time to get to know the students and their personal needs or living situations outside of the classroom setting (Bass, 2019). In other words, an educator might not have enough time to get to know the individual needs of the students and as a result makes assumptions about the students in order to teach the class.

**Best Practices’ Contribution to Education**

 Best practices have helped contribute to what education is today. The best practice of setting up for the next activity in the classroom setting while the students are working on the current activity has helped teachers in one major way. Setting up the next activity and not allowing students downtime while the teacher is preparing for the next activity keeps students engaged and less likely to get rowdy and off task (Estai & Bunt, 2016). This best practice has contributed to the education system because many teachers now use this task, and it keeps students from getting into trouble or off task during downtime. The best practice of getting to know your students has helped contribute to education in the manner of helping educators to plan for the entire class (Bass, 2019). If an educator is able to get to know the students and know what works for them, then the educator is able to better plan for activities that will keep students engaged in the classroom setting. For example, if an educator learns that the majority of students in the class are visual learners, then the educator can plan activities that are more visual in nature.

**Future Trends in Education and What is Being Done to Prepare for Them**

 It is important to stay on top of future trends and best practices within the education system as an educator and also as leader within the school setting. Future trends within the education setting will likely include more emphasis on technology within the classroom setting (Wong, 2017). Any sort of educational leader needs to stay on top of any sort of technology that is coming out that can affect the school setting. It is important for educators to know how technology can be used and how it will affect the classroom setting (Wong, 2017). The way that educational leaders can prepare for the future trends is to stay on top of any available technology and go to any sort of trainings that are available on the technology that is available. It is also important for educational leaders to be open minded for the future and what might be able to be used in the classroom setting. The steps that I will take to prepare for future trends are to attend trainings on technology that can be used and also look at research on what it being recommended to be used in the classroom setting. I will also be willing to try the different things that are being suggested so that I can see if they will indeed work for my classroom setting.

**Conclusion**

 An educator has to stay on top of many things. One of the most important things that an educator has to look at is what is taking place within the education setting in regards to strategies, new standards, as well as knowing the students. One way to stay on top of new strategies is to keep up with research-supported best practices within the education system. Knowing and understanding best practices in the education system can allow an educator to better teach their class and better prepare students for life outside of the classroom setting. If an educator overlooks best practices, then it could mean that the educator is not doing everything in their power to set up students for success after their education is complete.

**References**

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