

Unlocking the Secrets of Exceptional Education: A Comprehensive Review of "What Makes Good Schools"

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, the quest for excellence remains paramount. "What Makes Good Schools" by John Hattie, a renowned researcher and educator, offers a comprehensive and data-driven examination of the key factors that contribute to effective schooling. This article delves into the core concepts and insights presented in this groundbreaking work, providing valuable takeaways for policymakers, educators, and parents alike.

The Power of Effect Sizes

Hattie's approach is grounded in the concept of effect sizes, which measure the impact of educational interventions on student learning. By synthesizing over 800 meta-analyses, involving millions of students, Hattie has identified the factors that consistently drive significant improvements in academic outcomes. These factors form the foundation of his framework for effective schooling.



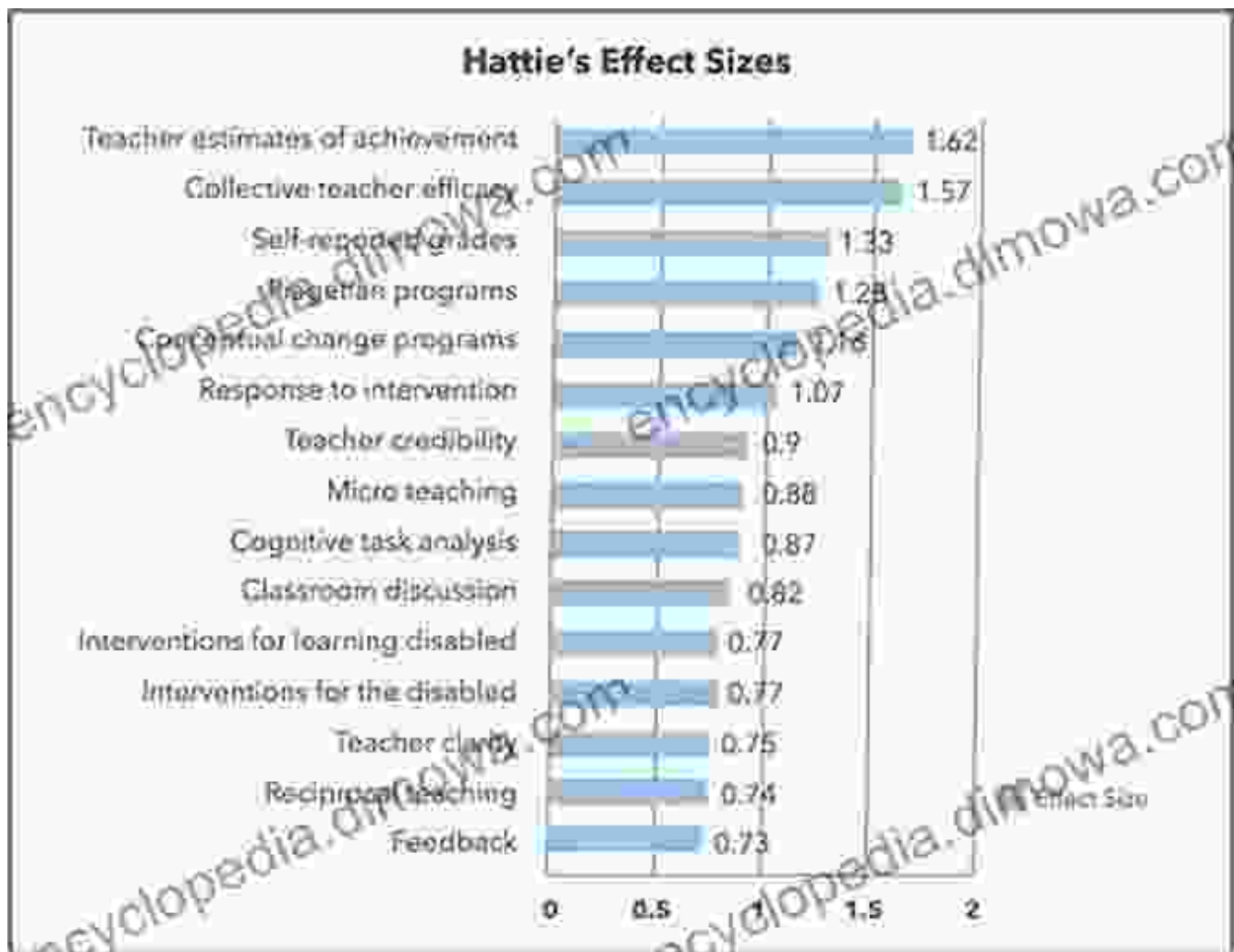
What Makes a Good School? by A. I. Abana

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 53 pages
File size : 1138 KB
Screen Reader : Supported

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Key Ingredients for Educational Success

Hattie's research reveals that effective schools are characterized by a complex interplay of factors, including:

- **Explicit instruction:** Teachers who provide clear and systematic explanations of concepts, coupled with guided practice, foster deeper understanding.

- **Feedback:** Constructive and timely feedback helps students identify areas for improvement and set realistic goals.
- **Student engagement:** Schools that actively engage students in their own learning, through activities like problem-solving and project-based work, promote motivation and retention.
- **Positive school climate:** A supportive and respectful school environment, where students feel safe and valued, creates an optimal atmosphere for learning.
- **Leadership:** Strong and visionary leadership is essential for setting the school's direction, fostering a culture of excellence, and ensuring the effective implementation of educational strategies.

The Impact of Teacher Quality

Hattie's research underscores the profound impact of teacher quality on student achievement. He argues that great teachers possess a deep understanding of their subject matter, are skilled at explaining complex concepts, and are able to inspire and motivate their students. They create a positive and inclusive classroom environment that encourages risk-taking and growth.

WHY INVEST IN QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS?

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT = TIME + \$

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DISTRICTS SPEND **\$18 THOUSAND** per teacher on professional development each year.

US SCHOOLS SPEND **\$18 BILLION** on professional development.

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71% of teachers are **NOT** satisfied with current professional development offerings.

66% of districts think professional development has **NOT** improved.

46% of teachers have said professional development opportunities are **better** in their current profession.

TEACHERS' IDEAL EXPERIENCE IS... HELPFUL, ATTRACTIVE, AND TREATS THEM AS PROFESSIONALS

OLD WAY OF DOING THINGS

- By themselves
- By rote
- Not fun
- Not relevant from classroom and students

NEW WAY OF DOING THINGS

- Engaging
- Relevant to you
- Connects to your classroom
- Collaborative
- Coaching

BETTER TRAINING LEADS TO BETTER OUTCOMES

BETTER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT + MORE SATISFIED TEACHERS = TEACHER-STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS GROW

97% of educators would recommend a program simulation to their manager.

99% of educators rate program simulations as good, very good, or excellent.

66% increase in the number of conversations with students after a program simulation.

This is the **best** training module I've ever taken and it includes support for the follow-up and peer development.

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In my 22 years in education, this is one of the **best** courses I've taken.

GREAT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS EVERYONE

TEACHERS

- Greater teacher satisfaction
- Change in salary savings

STUDENTS

- Increased learning level and engagement
- Change in high-stress completion
- Change in future earnings

DISTRICTS

- Growth in teacher retention rates
- Sustained ROI of teacher retention
- Improved school climate and community

Kognito

Beyond Traditional Measures

"What Makes Good Schools" challenges the traditional focus on standardized test scores as the sole measure of school effectiveness. Hattie emphasizes the importance of considering broader indicators, such as student engagement, well-being, and the development of critical thinking skills. He argues that a holistic approach to education, which values the

whole child, is essential for fostering well-rounded and successful individuals.

Implications for Policymakers and Educators

Hattie's research has profound implications for policymakers and educators who seek to improve school outcomes. Key takeaways include:

- **Prioritize teacher quality:** Invest in teacher development programs and create mechanisms to attract, retain, and reward effective educators.
- **Focus on explicit instruction:** Train teachers in evidence-based teaching practices that provide clear and systematic explanations of concepts.
- **Provide timely and constructive feedback:** Implement systems for ongoing assessment and feedback that help students identify areas for improvement.
- **Foster student engagement:** Design curricula and activities that actively involve students in their own learning and make learning meaningful and relevant.
- **Create a positive school climate:** Establish clear and consistent school rules, create a sense of belonging for all students, and promote open communication between students, teachers, and parents.

"What Makes Good Schools" by John Hattie is an indispensable resource for anyone committed to improving the quality of education. Through its rigorous analysis of effect sizes and its comprehensive framework for effective schooling, the book provides a roadmap for creating schools that

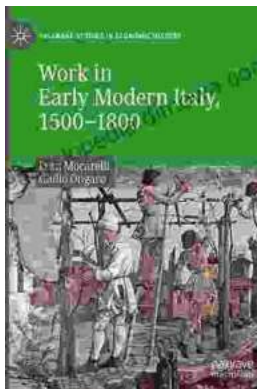
foster student growth, academic excellence, and well-being. By embracing Hattie's insights, policymakers, educators, and parents can work together to create a future where every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential.



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