

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM QUESTION

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The textbook by Ornstein offered an excellent summary of research on bringing about curriculum change. Please discuss some of the most important factors to be considered by curriculum leaders when considering resistance to change in a curriculum.

Changing curriculum is one of the hardest things that schools and educators go through, the textbook by Ornstein goes into great depth about the issues that curriculum leaders must face with the implementation of new curriculum. Millions of dollars go into creating new curriculum for schools and over 90 percent of new curricula fail to ever be implemented due to the lack of support and knowledge of the educators. It is really difficult to persuade an educator to change their way of teaching but by showing them that the new curriculum is in the best interest of the students can help this. The educator needs to know that by not implementing the new curriculum they will no longer be following the state mandate and their students won't be learning the material needed to pass state exams. On top of helping them realize it's in the best interest of the students the curriculum can be presented in a way that shows how it relates to the one that already exists. The more connections an educator can see the less "scary" the new curriculum will look, and the more willing they will be to give it a try.

Many individuals are responsible for making sure that the implementation of the new curriculum is successful. The first group of individuals is the students. It is important for the students to feel like they are a part of the change that is occurring in order to give them ownership in their learning. When a student feels responsible for their learning they provide the enthusiasm the teacher needs to continue the implementation process. Teachers are the key to the success of curriculum change. Without their full support the change will never take place, and in order to get this support they need all the help they can get. A supervisor is an individual put in place to provide this help for the teachers. They provide direction and guidance for the teachers and makes sure that they have the skills and knowledge to carry out the change. The principle is another important person who is involved in the success of curriculum change. The principle provides the atmosphere necessary within the school that exhibits positivity and enthusiasm. They also keep the mode of communication open, which allows individuals to