Inclusive Education Topic Two

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The second article that I chose to write about is Inclusive Education in Canada: Issues in Teachers Preparation by Adam W. McCrimmon. Teachers go through four years of university to become a teacher, yet they do not get the proper training to work with kids who are apart of inclusive education. The majority of universities throughout Canada only have one to two courses regarding inclusive education while getting a Bachelor of Education degree. According to McCrimmon (2015) due to lack of training, “many Canadian teachers struggle with application of inclusive principles in their classrooms and find the education of children with exceptional learning needs challenging.” (McCrimmon, 2015). Even though that seems to be one of the problems, there is a possible solution for the chaos that is being caused in the classroom. “One potential solution to this issue is the provision of forced certificate programs that provide highly specialized training and experience with specific childhood disabilities to enhance teachers’ knowledge and capacity in their classrooms. (McCrimmon, 2015)

After reading this article, I came to the realization of how much improvement is needed to the Bachelor of Education program across Canada. I have heard many stories of parents blaming the teachers for not teaching their disabled children and making them feel included in the classroom, however; the teachers should not be the ones blamed. All of the teachers are taking the knowledge they have learned in university and are applying it to their practice, if you are not taught how to work and teach students with disabilities, then you are going to have a really hard time applying that to your teaching. It is also difficult for teachers to adapt their lesson plans to meet everyone’s needs, yet they are expected to do so with little to no training.

University students spend thousands of dollars to become a teacher but what does university give them in return? Yes you receive your degree, but you do not learn how to adapt or learn the knowledge for any type of inclusive education, especially now that we are seeing more and more disabilities and immigrant students in the classroom. I cannot imagine how overwhelming everything must be for new teachers who are just graduating university. Walking into a classroom on your first day and you have six students who just immigrated over to Canada with no English and two kids with learning disabilities, chances are you probably will not know how to adapt to the circumstances right away and you will struggle trying to meet the needs of those eight children and the rest of the students in the classroom. I strongly believe this is why over thirty percent of teachers stop teaching within their first five years. University is setting them up to fail because they are not given the proper training they need to work with inclusive education students or giving them the proper resources and help they need in the classroom.

In this article McCrimmon (2015) states a potential solution when it comes to the lack of knowledge in the classroom regarding inclusive education. After reading it, I definitely agree that it could be a potential solution, however; if the university wants to charge more money for the necessary certificate, I do not think people will be very happy. You should not have to pay more for classes that should already be in the education program. The universities should get rid of the unnecessary classed and substitute them with classes we will actually need and use throughout our teaching careers.

The education system has many flaws in every aspect of school whether it is elementary school, high school or university. Since this article talks mainly about university, unfortunately, I think the university is going in the wrong direction. They are charging people more and giving them less in return. I am hoping this starts to change in the future because teachers and students are suffering from the poor education system. If they fixed a few things they would see such an improvement and hopefully a smaller percentage of teachers quitting their jobs.

References

McCrimmon, A. M. (2015, June 18). Inclusive Education in Canada: Issues in Teacher Preparation. Retrieved November 13, 2018, from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/272382999\_Inclusive\_Education\_in\_Canada\_Issues\_in\_Teacher\_Preparation