

Standards-Based Education and its Effect on Low-Income Students

This study examines how standards-based reform has affected low-income high school students. The new phenomenon of standards-based education has had a negative impact on children in urban school systems. Current research argues that standards-based education reform had good intentions in the beginning phases; however, it has caused more damage in the education system than it has improvement. Most of the research attributes the failed results of this education reform to either the standards or the teacher. Although this may be true in middle and upper class schools, there is limited research about the effects of this reform on low-income students and why these children are impacted negatively. This study uses journal articles and scholarly books to explore the probable benefits of the elimination of standards-based education and advantages of the introduction of education standards created on the basis of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs. It supports a wholistic approach to educating minority children, rather than the unsuccessful academics-based approach.