Use of Evidence to Inform Large Scale Reform in Education in Canada

Charles Ungerleider

The Political System
(Ungerleider, 2004, after Easton, 1965)
Conditions that increase the likelihood that an issue will reach the decision-making agenda (after Hogwood and Gunn)

- crisis proportion and can no longer be ignored;
- achieves particularity;
- emotive aspect which attracts media attention;
- likely to have wide impact;
- raises questions about power and legitimacy;
- fashionable.

Climate of opinion in Ontario at the Millennium

- schools under-funded
  - Government appointed commissioner validates need for additional funding
- student performance ‘mediocre’ in relation to Canada as a whole
  - International assessments
  - significant numbers of disengaged students
  - Students leaving school prior to graduation
  - Special educational needs perceived as unmet
  - Large numbers of grade ten students fail literacy examination
- status of teaching profession questioned
- parents seeking competitive advantage for offspring
Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategy

- Large-scale secondary school reform started in 2003.
- The SS/L18 Strategy was designed to meet five key goals of the secondary school system:
  - Increase graduation rate and decrease drop-out rate;
  - Support a good outcome for all students;
  - Provide students with new and relevant learning opportunities;
  - Build on students’ strengths and interests; and
  - Provide students with an effective elementary to secondary school transition.

Simplified Logic Model

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Measurements of process indicators ➔ Measurement of outcome indicators
THANK YOU!

http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Research/Student+Success?Language=EN

http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Research/Student+Success/StudentSuccess.htm?Language=FR