Through the Eyes of the Beholder: Student Teaching During the Pandemic

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Overview

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused student teachers to develop new ways to engage lessons and hold conversations in a virtual environment. This pilot study focused on survey responses (n=3) that were sent out in Fall 2020 to 47 student teachers in eastern Kentucky to observe how they internalized their experiences.

Timeline for KY Schools

March 12, 2020: Governor Beshear recommends that all schools' superintendents cease in-person classes for Spring 2020 semester.

March 23, 2020: Morehead State University (MSU) courses move online for remainder of spring 2020 semester.

April 20, 2020: Beshear recommends all schools to stay closed and online for remainder of Spring 2020 semester.

July 27, 2020: Beshear says schools should wait until the 3rd week of August to open.

August 10, 2020: Beshear recommends schools wait until September 28 for in-person classes, while online classes remain an option.

November 16, 2020: Beshear recommends Kentucky universities end in-person classes on Friday 10/20/20 and move to online learning.

November 23, 2020: MSU classes move online for Fall 2020 finals.

Case Study Respondent Demographics

Respondent A	Respondent B	Respondent C
Female	Did not disclose	Female
White	Did not disclose	White
IECE Content Area	Did not disclose	Elementary Education P-5 Content Area
Kindergarten and Preschool	Grades 9-12	Kindergarten
Urban setting	Rural setting	Rural setting
In-person placement	Hybrid placement	Hybrid placement

Discussion

Student teachers have had to learn to adapt to online teaching following the multiple school shutdowns across Kentucky. There are many disadvantages to online forms of teaching, such as restless students and a plethora of technical difficulties. Respondents reported their students prefer in-person learning, and the patterns of stress among public school P-12 students have supported this observation.

Findings

Similarities observed in case studies:

Data indicated similar stress difficulties for public school P-12 students in the new online learning environment.

Case study examples:

Respondent C reported that "[students] are overwhelmed and prefer in person instruction."

Respondent B specified issues faced, "Some students struggle with technology as well as not having someone there to help them if they need it."

Differences observed in case studies:

Data indicated dissimilar behavior issues in respondent classrooms. This could be related to grade level and developmental stage of the students in the respondents' classroom.

Case study examples:

Respondent B stated that the few occasions of behavioral problems were stopped "by the rules and guidelines laid out in week 1."

Respondent C explained that "some students will not pay attention or will have other things pulled up on their computers."