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# The Effects of Poverty in the Role of Schools: Implications for Teacher-Preparation Programs

Deanna L. Keith Dr.

*Liberty University, dlkeith@liberty.edu*

Lucinda S. Spaulding

*Liberty University, lsspaulding@liberty.edu*

Andrea P. Beam

*Liberty University, abeam@liberty.edu*

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# The Effects of Poverty in the Role of Schools:

## Implications for Teacher-Preparation Programs

***Dr. Deanna Keith***

***Dr. Lucinda Spaulding***

***Dr. Andrea Beam***

***Liberty University***

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# The Effect of Poverty

**“It is estimated that over the past two years, the number of school children in homeless families has risen by 75 to 100 percent in many school districts.”**

**-National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth (NAEHCY), September 2009**

**“In the 2007-08 school year, an estimated 794,600 homeless children and youth were enrolled in public schools ... a 17% increase from 2006-07.”**

***-Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program,  
National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)  
April 2009***

**NAEHCY estimates that more than 1 million homeless children PK-12 were enrolled in public schools in 2008-09.”**

**– *The Economy Crisis Hits Home, NAEHCY, December 2008***

**Because of the home foreclosure crisis, an estimated 2 million children will lose their homes over the next two years.”**

**– *The Economy Crisis Hits Home, NAEHCY, December 2008***



# Family Impact

- Class system – “Haves” and “Have-nots”
  - The disparity between America’s rich and poor is the largest since 1928
- Family Stress & Dysfunction
- Substance Abuse
- Gang Activity
- Homelessness
  - Approximately 1 out of every 50 children in America are homeless...about 1.5 million in all.

# School Impact

- Poor Attendance & Participation
- Increased Frequency of Relocations
- Poor Brain Development
- Illiteracy & Low Achievement
- Learners Unready to Learn
- Inadequate Parental Support
- Demand on Exceptional Education Services

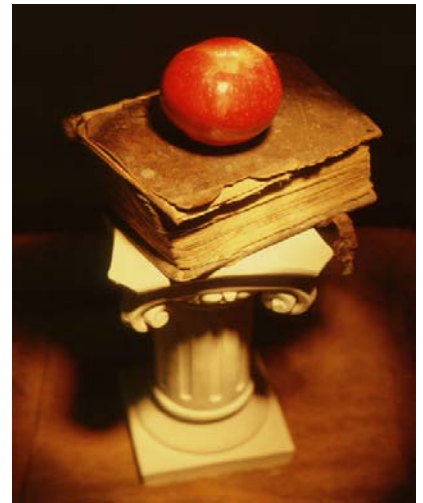
Wishon, P. (2009, November). *When the economy falters: Poverty, culture, and education* [PowerPoint slides]. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Virginia Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and Association of Teacher Educators of Virginia, Sweet Briar, VA

# Student Impact


- Academic Characteristics
- Behavioral Characteristics
- Organizational Characteristics
- Social Characteristics

# Implications for Teacher Preparation Programs

- Explore difficult social and cultural issues
- Field experiences in schools with critical needs
- Field experiences in schools with cultural differences
- Provide Relevant and Enriching Professional Development





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- Student reflections that examine the impact of their differences from others
  - Examine the impact of poverty on learning & development
  - Use culturally relevant curriculum
  - Develop students of culture and difference

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