

Panel Discussion: “School vs. Education”
Wednesday, April 26, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Marriage and Family Building, Room 101, Friends University (Wichita)

Panelists:

Terrell Davis – Head of School at The Independent School; twenty-five years in public schools
Pete Ferrell -- 4L Ranch, Regenerative Practices in Flint Hills, apprenticeship programs in stewardship and ecology
LeRoy Hershberger -- Acclaimed story teller, small business owner, Partridge High School Shop teacher
Dr. Russ McCullough -- Gwartney Institute Ottawa University; Free-market solutions
Dr. Delia Shropshire -- President of Holy Savior Catholic School; the assumption of spiritual formation
Dr. James Tooley – Vice-Chancellor of the University of Buckingham, England; low-cost, high-caliber private schools
Dalena Wallace -- Homeschool mother, cooperative learning structures, WISE president
Nathan Washer -- Head of School at Wichita Collegiate School; technology for the future

Points of order:

- a. Welcome by panel moderator
- b. Brief salient, personal introductions by each panel member
- c. Rules of engagement:
 - Panelists will respond as desired and in no particular order.
 - Panelists may ask, without interrupting their fellow panelists, for points of clarification or follow-up.
 - After each larger question has been responded to by the panelists, the audience (non-panelists) may address particular panelists with a related question (preceded by only the briefest personal anecdote/claim).
- d. Working definitions:
 - Education is “leading out” (Latin roots) the learner, and though an education often is mentioned or studied in connection with the young, it occurs life-long as we prepare to enter and assimilate successfully into new paths and fields wherein new knowledge, skills, aptitudes, and attitudes/affections are helpful. Education is a constant human opportunity.
 - School is a systematic structuring of components intentionally resolved to educate and is usually bound to a gathering time and place.

Questions:

1. Good Definitions: This discussion has an advertised title, “School vs. Education.” What essential differences are to be emphasized between these two concepts? Does the title prompt you to generally think of conflict or harmony between the two?
2. Abiding Dilemmas: If public schools are essentially free for the consumer, why must they be compulsory? If students were not compelled to attend school, but could learn whatever they wish at their own pace (wherever they might choose to learn), how would the larger culture be impacted?
3. Potential Departures: If the State funded, but did not operate, schools, who would be responsible for designing them? By what standards? Describe the emerging landscape. What would stay the same, what would change? For better? For worse?
4. Reasonable Delegation: Given that job preparation is currently a high priority outcome for schools, should Industry be supporting, funding, even steering, schools more than is currently practiced?
5. Potential Directions: Given the proposed goal of low-cost, high-caliber schools, can public and private co-exist and collaborate?

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If time allows:

6. If democracies “bless” and honor polycultures (promote diversity, if you will), how important are efforts to homogenize citizens through schooling managed and consolidated by the State?
7. Who will/should structure learning in the internet-immersive schooling -- in which learning comes from virtually any location and to which we appear headed? Are schools (as places to educate) losing out to the screens that dominate our lives?
8. Should we divest schooling from youth athletic competition, team sports participation, even professional athletic development? Could we?