

A Comparison of Mexico and US Educational Systems



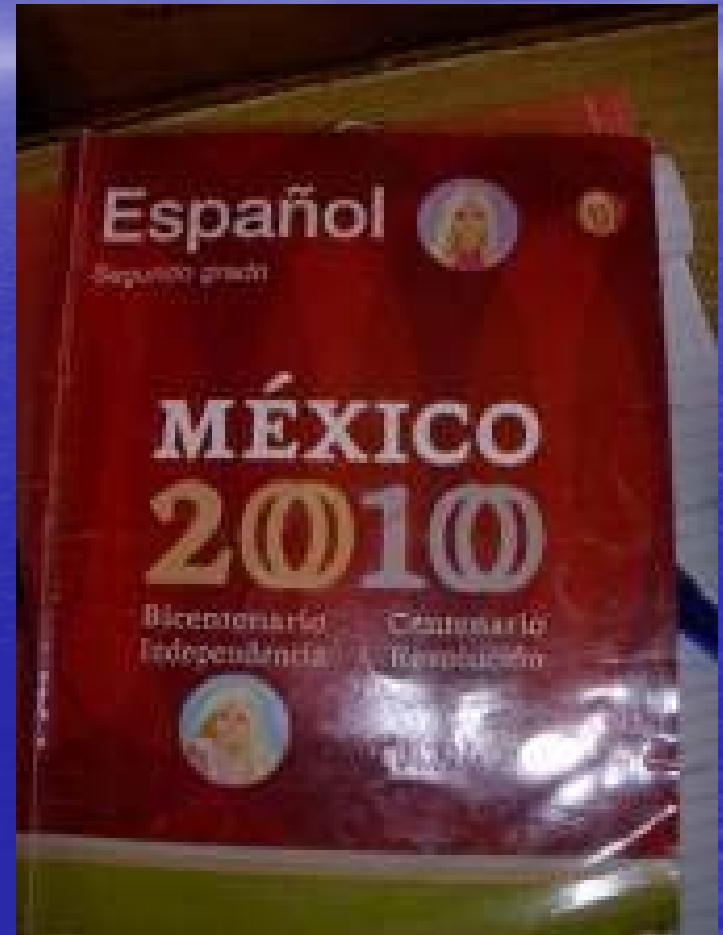
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Overview of Mexican School System

- National curriculum/Free textbooks for all
- Pre-school to 9th grade (compulsory ed. free)
- School uniforms required
- Student cohort selected by state department of education



Mexican school system

- is divided in the following levels: Preschool, Elementary, Junior High, High School/Jr. College, and Universities.

US school system

- is divided in the following levels: Elementary, Middle or Jr. High, High School, Jr. College, Vocational, and Universities.



Mandatory Preschool



“Jardín de los Niños” normal class size is 35-50 students and is required for all children from ages 3-5. Students upon completion receive a graduation document which is required before entering primary school. Their third year of preschool is equivalent to our kindergarten.

Elementary School=Primaria First through sixth grades



All elementary schools observed were 1st -6th grade. Most city schools had a.m. and p.m. school schedules. The a.m. school was from 8-12 p.m., and the afternoon school day was from 2-6 p.m. Morning and afternoon school day had separate principals. Some teachers taught both morning and afternoon.

Recess/Brunch



- Students eat “brunch” at this time which they bring from home or purchase on site
- No designated eating areas
- Recess is unsupervised – students are to resolve issues as they arise

Junior High

La Secundaria

- Secundarias in Mexico are for students in grades 7th through 9th grades.
- They are arranged as first year of secundaria, second year of secundaria and third year of secundaria.



Telesecundarias for rural communities



- Telesecundarias can be found in rural areas through out Mexico.
- Telesecundarias are equivalent to the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades as in Junior Highs in the US.
- Every hour the students are given 15 minute televised lessons then are given 45 minutes to complete assignments in their national text book with support of a teacher or para professional.

High School/Jr. College Preparatoria o media superior



- High School is not mandatory in Mexico. Most preparatorias are found only in urban areas which makes education costly to those from rural areas.
- Students enrolled in preparatorias can either receive a vocational certificate, or get a diploma (Bachillerato) to then move on to a four year University to receive a degree
- Preparatorias are arranged in the following manner:
1st year of prepa, 2nd year of prepa & 3rd year of prepa.

Mexico's Classroom Technology

- SMART Boards were observed throughout the schools
- Interactive classroom support



Mexico School Library



- Library devoid of fiction literature
- Due to the limited supply of books students/teachers use them only on site

Grading practices:

United States:

- Letter system: A, B, C, D, F
- “A” being the best grade
- “D” passing poorly
- “F” failed course/subject

México:

- Number system: 10 to 5
- “10” being the best grade
- “6” passing poorly
- “5” failed course/subject



Types of schools:

United States:

- *Public Schools*
- *Charter Schools*
- *Private Schools*
- *Home schooling*

México:

- *Public schools*
- *Private schools*



Local Mexican Consulates offer:

- **Transfer documents**
 - for US students traveling to Mexico for extended periods of time
- **Apostille-Sacramento Consulate**



Expectations of Parent Involvement

- Parents in Mexico are invited to school with the expectation of monetary support or in-kind support: painting the school, cleaning the school yard, hosting a Mother's day celebration, providing food for a fiesta, etc.
- Parents in Mexico are not part of the governing boards of schools nor are they asked for their opinion towards school success. Therefore, parents leave education to the experts the teachers.
- Unlike our legal mandates (ELAC/ parent teacher conferences) parent involvement is not required or even encouraged.



Mobility Issues

- November, December and January are typically months with no job prospects for agricultural or seasonal workers in the US due to the winter climate. Therefore, families travel back to Mexico to visit their extended family.
- Migrant students



Questions or comments...

