EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS IN CONTRAST
Many Thanks to:

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EDUATIONAL SYSTEMS IN CONTRAST

**USA**

- State Curriculum Standards
- State adopts the textbooks; LEA purchases the textbooks
- Taxing authority
- Superintendent of schools
- Principals
- Teachers
- Student Records

**MEXICO**

- National curricula
- Prints and distributes textbooks at national level
- Non-taxing
- Inspector
- Principals
- Teachers
- Records given to parents/data concentrated at state level
• U. S. School System
  – Pre-School
  – 1\textsuperscript{st} Grade
  – 2\textsuperscript{nd} Grade
  – 3\textsuperscript{rd} Grade
  – 4\textsuperscript{th} Grade
  – 5\textsuperscript{th} Grade
  – 6\textsuperscript{th} Grade
  – 7\textsuperscript{th} Grade
  – 8\textsuperscript{th} Grade
  – 9\textsuperscript{th} Grade
  – 10\textsuperscript{th} Grade
  – 11\textsuperscript{th} Grade
  – 12\textsuperscript{th} Grade

• Mexican School System
  – Preescolar
  – 1 Primer grado de primaria
  – 2 Segundo grado de primaria
  – 3 Tercer grado de primaria
  – 4 Cuarto grado de primaria
  – 5 Quinto grado de primaria
  – 6 Sexto grado de primaria
  – 7 Primer grado de secundaria
  – 8 Segundo grado de secundaria
  – 9 Tercer grado de secundaria
  – 10 Primer y segundo semestres de preparatoria (bachillerato)
  – 11 Tercer y cuarto semestres de preparatoria (bachillerato)
  – 12 Quinto y sexto semestres de preparatoria (bachillerato)
HIGHLIGHTS OF SCHOOLING IN MEXICO
Grading Policy-Mexico

✓ National School Calendar-200 days (August-July)  
  www.sep.gob.ms
✓ Must have 80% attendance to be promoted
✓ National curricula for Primaria/Secundaria
✓ Report cards issued 5 times in school year
✓ Partial grades range from 5-10 in whole numbers
✓ Final grade for each subject is the average of 5 partial grades reported as whole number and a decimal
✓ 6.0 and higher is passing
SCHOOLING IN MEXICO

พฤติกรรมการศึกษา

- Free, public, and compulsory education
- Centralized system
- Preescolar through Secundaria

Types of Escuelas Preescolar

- Regular
- CONAFE (Consejo Nacional de Fomento Educativo)
- Indigenous
- Migrant
Types of Primarias

- Regular
- CONAPE (Consejo Nacional de Fomento Educativo)
- Indigenous
- Migrant

Types of Secundarias

- General (academic)
- Técnica (technical)
- Telesecundaria (tv-based)
- Para Trabajadores (worker’s)
- A few CONAFE
Preescolar/Preschool

- Kinder 3 (Pre-k for 3 yr. old children)
- Kinder 4 (Pre-k for 4 yr. old children)
- Kinder 5 or Preescolar (Kindergarten)
- Attendance is now compulsory for Preescolar
- Age is the only criteria for advancing to next level; students are not retained
- Types: Regular, CONAFE, Indigenous, and Migrant
Regular Preescolar

- Similar to our preschools
- In most schools, children wear uniforms that are purchased by parents
- Students can attend school in the morning or afternoon
- Preschools are generally “stand-alone” campuses
Primaria/Elementary

✓ From fist to sixth grade
✓ Students who will turn 6 years old by December 31st begin first grade
✓ National curricula
✓ It is compulsory in Mexico
✓ Effective this year (2012-2013), to be promoted to the next grade in grades 3-6, students must pass ALL subjects and have 6.0 average
✓ Types: Regular, CONAIFE, Indigenous, and Migrant
CONAFE GRADING POLICY

✓ CONAFE Primaria is divided into three levels
✓ Level I = First and second grade
✓ Level II = Third and fourth grade
✓ Level III = Fifth and Sixth grade
✓ A student may complete a level in one year or take two or more years to finish
✓ A student may enroll at any time
Indigenous Primaria

- Located in Areas that have a high indigenous population
- There are 62 indigenous languages in Mexico
- Materials are adapted for at least 50 different languages
- Instructional system in bilingual and intercultural (Spanish and indigenous language)
Secundaria/Secondary

- Types of Secundarias: General (academic), Técnica (technical), Telesecundaria (tv-based), Para Trabajadores (worker’s), and a few CONAFE
- Secundaria is compulsory in Mexico
- Equivalent to grades 7, 8, and 9
- Ages 12-15
- Secundarias General
  - School Year 2006-2007 and on follow a new curriculum map
• Secundaria is free; however the schools do assess a fee call a “papelería” fee
  – Amount varies from school to school, approximately 200-500 pesos per year
  – Used to pay for
    • Teaching materials
    • Consumables
    • Etc.
• Students must pay for their own supplemental texts, workbooks, and notebooks (approx. 100-160 pesos per book)

• Students/Parents must purchase their own uniforms
  – Many schools have three uniforms
    • Summer
    • Winter
    • Sports
Secundaria/Secondary (Cont’d)

• In most Secundarias
  – There are no lockers—students carry all of their books
  – Student do no change classes; rather the teachers rotate

• For the most part, teaching methods are left up to the individual teachers
  – Based on observations, a lot of teachers use the traditional lecture approach
  – Students are required to use their auditory skills quite often

• Assessments
  – Many zonas escolares have benchmarks and assessments that they require their school to use
Preparatoria/High School
Educación Media Superior

• There are hundreds of different models of Preparatoria founded by state and federal governments, private sources, and in public and private universities

• Generally, 2 to 3 years equivalent to 10th, 11th, and 12th grades of high school
Preparatoria/High School
Educación Media Superior

• Different kinds of Bachilleratos
  - Bachillerato General-prepares students for the university (similar to U.S. high schools)
  - Bachillerato Técnico-students can begin working upon completion
  - Bachillerato Abierto-self-paced
Preparatoria/High School
Educación Media Superior

• Each state’s Secretaría de Educación Pública mandates the academic requirements for the Preparatorias
• Most are similar with the exception of the UNAM in Mexico City
Preparatoria/High School
Educación Media Superior

• Wide range of tuition rates dependent on the type of Preparatoria and the programs/degrees offered.
• Very similar to our Community Colleges
• For example, the UDEM (Universidad de Monterrey-a private school)
  – Cost—approximately $4,000 USD per semester
  – Classes run from 7:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m.
    • 70 minutes in length
    • MWF—core subjects are taught
    • TR—additional subjects are taught
Mexican immigrant students need a special support system here in the United States. One of these unique support systems is the Binational Migrant Education Initiative.
Binational Migrant Education Initiative

• Initiative began in 1976 as a collaborative effort between educators in Mexico and the United States

• Programs within the Binational Initiative provide services to migrant students who travel between the two countries
Definition of a Binational Migrant Student

A binational student is an eligible migrant student whom moves between Mexico and the United States with his/her parents or as an emancipated youth at least once in the last 36 months.
Components of the Binational Migrant Education Initiative

- Transfer Document
- Free Textbook Distribution Program
- Teacher Exchange Program
- Telesecundaria
- INIA (Adult Courses)
Transfer Document/Documento de Transferencia

• An initiative of the Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP)

• Exchanges information to unsure enrollment of returning Mexican students

• A binational “report card”
  – Educational enrollment
  – Current achievement
Transfer Document/Documento de Transferencia cont’d

- Designed by the U.S. and Mexico
- Can help in improving drop-out rate
- Used to only be available from local consulate office
- Now more readily available
- Only available for Primaria and Secundaria
Free Textbook Distribution Program/Libros de Texto Gratis

- Result of 1997 formal agreement between Mexico and the United States
- Supplements curriculum for Spanish-speaking students
- Available for Primaria, grades 1-6
- Only offered in complete sets (50 books per set)
- Promotes literacy development in Spanish as a second language
- Available through Mexican consulates
Where does the term *apostille* come from and what does it mean?

✓ *Apostille* is a French term mean *a certification*

✓ It is the title given to the authentication certificate issued under the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents ("Hague Legalization Convention").

✓ The *apostille* certifies to the authenticity of the signature, the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted and where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which the document bears.
What are the elements of an apostille?

- Information Regarding the Public Document to which the Apostille is to be Affixed.
- Country is which the apostille is produced
- Name of the public official signing the document which is the subject of the apostille
- Capacity of the public official
- The seal or stamp appearing on the public document, if any
What are the elements of an apostille?

✓ Information Regarding the Issuance of the Apostille
  ❖ Place where the apostille was issued
  ❖ Date of issuance
  ❖ Who issued the apostille
  ❖ Certificate number assigned to the apostille
  ❖ Seal or stamp of competent authority
  ❖ Signature of the competent authority
Apostille

✓ For students going to Mexico in grads 1-9, an apostille is not required; rather only a Transfer Document
✓ For students going to Mexico in grades 10-12th an apostille should be issued.
✓ Search the state’s secretary of state website http://www.sos.ks.gov/business/notary_public/certifications.html for “apostille” information, fees, telephone numbers, turn-around times, etc.
How do I request student records from Mexico?!?
Requesting records from Mexico

Plan A—send e-mail to the PROBEM Coordinator

WAIT

Plan B—send fax with Records Request form

WAIT
Plan C—(when all else fails) call the Center for Migrant Education at (512) 245-1365 and ask for Monica Lira!