



Teaching with Poverty in Mind

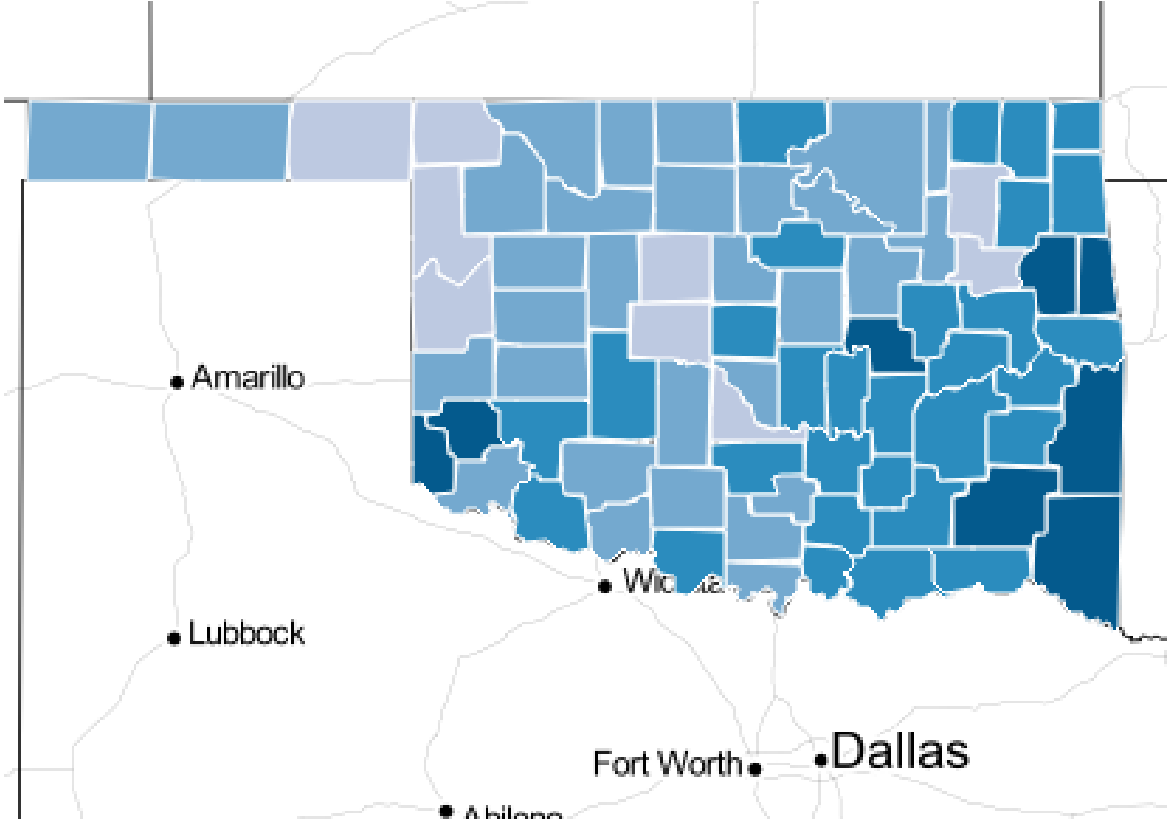
How it Affects
Student/Teacher/Family Interactions

Why do we need to talk about Poverty in Oklahoma?

Oklahoma Report - 2017

- Population: 3,809,431 Number in Poverty: 620,377 (16.3%)*
- 22.6% of Oklahoma children live below the poverty line
- 16% of young adults ages 18-24 do not have high school degrees and are not working
- 15.2% have hunger and food insecurity
- 26.1% lack health insurance (under the age of 65)
- 13.7% of households use high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet

THE DARKER THE BLUE THE HIGHER THE POVERTY RATE



Harmon	28.8%
Choctaw	27.1%
Pushmataha	26.5%
Adair	26.4%
McCurtain	26.1%
Payne	25.7%
Seminole	22.9%
Muskogee	22.9%
Cherokee	22.8%
Coal	22.6%
Delaware	22.2%
Rogers	9.3%
Kingfisher	8.3%
Canadian	7.0%

Questions for Today

How do we define poverty?

What is the dividing line between low-income, middle-income and high-income?

Why is there such a stark disparity in academic achievement among different income levels?

What can we, as educators, do to close the achievement gap among students of different income levels?



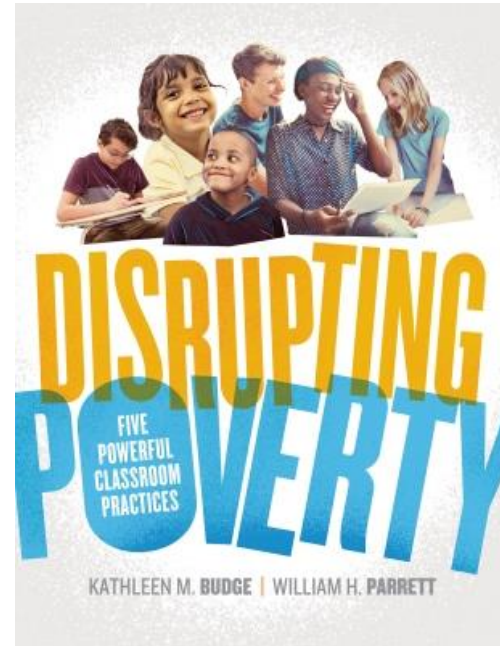
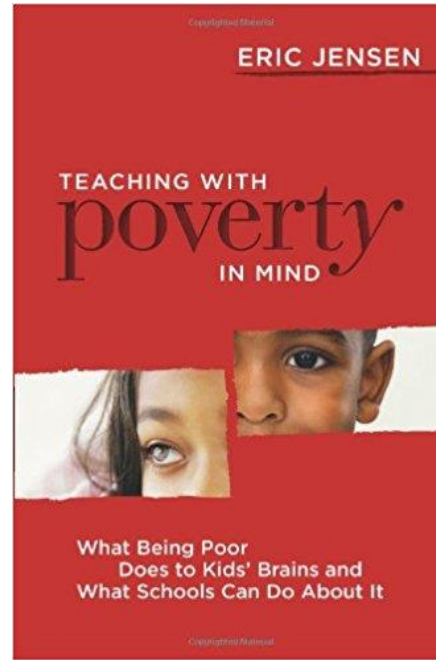
**Today's
Workshop
is
Just
the
Tip
Of
The
Iceberg**

THE NUMBER ONE THING THAT
CAN BRING YOU OUT OF
POVERTY IS:

EDUCATION

Our goal as educators is to create an atmosphere of learning that allows students from all backgrounds to be successful in obtaining an education.

Reading Suggestions



These three books can help guide you in understanding not just poverty, but middle class and wealth. They can help you and me understand how class affects the environment of student learning.

Key Points:

- If you live in a community where everyone around you has similar circumstances, the notion of poverty and wealth is pretty vague.
- Poverty occurs among all ethnic backgrounds and in all countries.
- Generational poverty and situational poverty are very different.
- An individual is ingrained with the hidden rules of the class in which s/he was raised.
- Schools and businesses operate from middle class norms.
- Understanding the hidden rules from each class will make us better prepared to teach our students.
- To be successful, students must be given the opportunity to learn these rules.

As we talk about poverty today, keep in mind that every situation is not the same.



Hidden Rules

How easily could you survive in:

Wealth?

Middle Class?

Poverty?

What Is Poverty?

Poverty is when you
do not have enough
resources to
purchase basic needs

But poverty is much more complex than
just a definition.

It does not mean the same thing for all
people.

There are six basic types of poverty:

- **Situational Poverty** is generally caused by a sudden crisis or job loss and is usually temporary.
- **Relative Poverty** refers to the economic status of a family whose income is insufficient to meet society's average standard of living.
- **Urban Poverty** occurs in large metropolitan areas. The urban poor deal with crowding, community violence and noise. They are dependent on often-inadequate large-city services.
- **Rural Poverty** occurs in small towns and surrounding areas. Families often have less access to services, support for disabilities, and quality education opportunities
- **Generational Poverty** is where at least two generations have been born into poverty.
- **Absolute Poverty** involves a scarcity of such things as shelter, running water and food.

Children Living in Poverty:

- Tend to spend less time finding out about the world around them and more time struggling to survive. Families live in the present without planning for the future.
- Are more likely to rely on peers than on adults for social and emotional support.
- Have fewer books at home.
- Are less likely to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Often feel isolated and unloved.
- Often have no one at home to help with schoolwork.
- Are more likely to be tardy/absent from school.
- Deal with stress caused by evictions, financial strain, domestic violence, and overcrowding (just to name a few stressors).

Learning by Osmosis

There are things you believe about life in general but were never specifically ‘taught’.

Being immersed in situations brought about by living in poverty, middle class or wealth determines how we think about many things in life.

Ruby Payne’s chart *Hidden Rules Among Classes* can help you understand some of these differences.

Adverse Childhood Experiences

The CDC-Kaiser ACE study is one of the largest investigations of childhood abuse and neglect. It is a tally of different types of abuse, neglect and other hallmarks of a rough childhood and the effects of these traumas on your health and on brain development.

Go to KPJRFilms.co to watch the documentary *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope*

Take the ACE quiz:



The Brain Under Stress



But, what if the bear lives in your home?

With significant threats to safety and well-being in childhood, our brain development is different, especially when these threats occur between 3-6y/o. **We are subsequently quicker to activate the HPA.** This may manifest as withdrawn OR hyper-aroused children.

Increased activation of the HPA leads to decreased ability to absorb new information.

This ingrained response from childhood also changes a person's inherent ability to regulate behaviors in stressful situations when what they instinctually crave is *stability and safety*.

What do we *do* about ACEs?



We Educate Ourselves

- Acquire training around appropriate response to trauma-fed behavior
- Educate ourselves about resiliency-building factors
- We invest in supportive youth and family services
- We invest in behavioral health resources to support ACEs survivors

- Mind frame shift from

What's **WRONG** with you that makes you **ACT** like this? →

What **HAPPENED** to you that makes
you **REACT** like this?

Well...

Your job as an educator just got a little more complicated!

In addition to teaching all the standards, dealing with school mandates, grading make up work, sponsoring activities – now you have poverty to deal with.

What an amazing job we have!

We touch lives.

What I am going to tell you next is the most important thing about this workshop.

Never Underestimate The Power of Resiliency!



What a student from
poverty
could tell you
but probably won't.

Privacy

There is none in poverty. You may share a room with several siblings and other relatives may be staying at your home.

It is noisy and chaotic.

Don't expect me to have a quiet place to do homework – or someone to help me with my schoolwork.

Vocabulary

My academic vocabulary is lacking. Research shows that in my formative years I was exposed to 50% fewer words than middle class children. Help me by using word walls and other visual cues in your classroom.

Have patience with me when I struggle.

Emotions

In my home emotions are openly displayed. Sometimes fiercely – but they are short-lived.

I may laugh if you discipline me to save face in front of others.

The ability to entertain others with your personality is important in my culture. This may disrupt your classroom.

I am impulsive, spontaneous, and my humor may be inappropriate.

Kinship

My family is not just made up of parents and siblings.

Cousins are like brothers and sisters.

Aunts and uncles are like another set of parents.

My grandparents are very important to me.

Don't ever talk about my relatives! I will defend them fiercely.

Planning

I have no idea how to plan for the future.

My family lives in the present without planning for the future.

Once I leave school, I may not get my work done.

I need help with multi-step assignments.

Due dates slip right past me.

Following directions is difficult.

Relationships

If I feel that you are cold and uncaring, I will not learn from you.

I am loyal to my friends.

If I feel you genuinely care about my learning, I will try harder.

If I feel you are not kind or fair to my friends, I will not learn from you.

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