

**Write a reflection on the impacts of shifting cultural, linguistic, demographic and socioeconomic trends based on what you have read in and outside of class and based on your personal and professional experience as a student, education professional, parent, administrator and/or counselor.**

**Focus on specific challenges and opportunities for schools (public, private or adult) at the local, state and/or national level.**

A new trend that's very COVID-specific: I've seen communities come together to form "pods" for their children to do distance learning with other students. The communities come from different backgrounds. In my personal experience, I worked at a Jewish community center that organized K-5 students from different schools to come together for a classroom/camp experience. This made me think of this statement from the readings:

Children from privileged classes have advantages at home (tutors, electronics, access to books, and travel) to enhance school success than children from less advantaged homes experience.

Within the Jewish community, for example, it's a privilege for any family to have the means to pay \$400/wk to have their child go to a day care that emphasizes school work on top of play. This is a very new trend that I got to be a part of. I was a paid administrator (aka, "camp counselor") that made sure the eight to ten kindergarten campers in my classroom were doing their zoom session. They all had iPads or Chromebooks to facilitate school. Immediately I saw a class distinction between the private school and public school kids.

They were all Jewish culturally. Some were mixed with Spanish, African, French, and Asian ethnic backgrounds. Some were multilingual. The only students that had to learn Hebrew as part of the curriculum were the Jewish private school kids. Their classrooms were more homogenous, with Jewish teachers, staff, and students. The other kids went to a regular public school, which meant that they were exposed to other students of different cultures. When students did their Zoom class sessions, I could see in Gallery View the different kinds of faces of the student body.

I noticed a couple of students had special unique schedules where they'd have to take a speech or Hebrew class at 1pm. This is after all the normal classes are done and also after lunch time. For Kindergarten, I thought this was very resourceful. At that age, I feel like the kid gets an advantage and head start. I hope to see this become more

common. It would be nice if students get a choice of foreign language classes to go with their regular curriculum. Imagine if American students could choose Spanish, Chinese, Hebrew, Sign, etc. We'd have a more inclusive and diverse population.

The cultural trend that I also see is a technological one. How much emphasis and importance does our current culture place on digital technology? In my experience, I've seen that during this pandemic, there is a strong reliance on using a tablet or laptop computer. For certain, I see private schools renting out iPads and Chromebooks to students. As for public schools, I do not know what programs they have for students who don't own any of this technology. All classrooms are done by Zoom, so I do know these are some the minimum requirements to go to school:

- 1) Computer hardware that has a working camera, screen, microphone, keyboard, and mouse/trackpad.
- 2) High Speed Internet Connection

To reiterate, that means every household with a child must have access to a computer and internet. During lockdown, this means the student cannot go out to borrow one or hang out in the library. Each household must have some sort of space for a student to take their class. These are basic necessities.

We're still in phase 1 of this pandemic. As of this writing, schools are halfway through their first semester the week before Halloween. We're also less than ten days away from the 2020 Presidential Election. The census will have new data on the demographics of this country. With all this being said, it'll be interesting to see the impact of shifting cultural, linguistic, demographic, and socioeconomic trends going into 2021.