American Leadership and the Human Capital Century

Virtues of the Past
Virtues of U.S. Education

• Public funding and public provision
• Publicly funded by small, independent districts
• Open and “forgiving”
• Academic, yet practical
• Secular: church-state separation
• Gender equality
Years of Schooling at Age 35 Years by Sex and Year of Birth: U.S. 1875 to 1975
Public and Private Secondary School Graduation Rate
Including GED recipients

Source: Goldin & Katz (2008), fig. 9.2
Public and Private High School Graduation Rate

Source: Goldin & Katz (2008), table 6.2
Public and Private Graduation Rate, 1928

- 43-56%
- 38-43%
- 28-38%
- 20-28%
- < 20%
Secondary School Enrollment Rates: OECD, 1955/56

Full-time, Part-Time Sec. Schl. Enr. Rates (15-19 yrs.)

- Full-time general
- Full-time technical

Countries include: AUT, NLD, LUX, DEU, BEL, CHE, FRA, IRL, GBR, DNK, NOR, SWE, USA.
B.A. Completion Rates by Birth Cohort (by age 35 years)
Secondary School Completion Rates by Age: OECD, 2005

The chart shows the secondary school completion rates by age for various countries in the OECD, 2005. The countries are listed from highest to lowest completion rates in the 55 to 64 years age group. The US has the highest completion rate, followed by Switzerland, Germany, and Norway. Italy has the lowest completion rate in this age group.
Virtues of U.S. Education

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- Secular: church-state separation
New Virtues of U.S. Education

- Public funding and public provision
  - Public funding, private provision; vouchers and charter schools
- Publicly funded by small, independent districts
  - State equalization
- Open and “forgiving”
  - Promotion and graduation standards
- Academic, yet practical
  - Applied (tech) for some, academic for most
- Secular: church-state separation
  - Use of vouchers to pay for religious schools.
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Virtues of the Past