

ABSTRACT

Analysis of the Reclassification Process of Secondary Schools in Jamaica.

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The research explored the preparation and implementation of change from new secondary schools to comprehensive high schools. The preparation was examined in terms of readiness, relevance, and resources. The investigation examined the perception of students, teachers and administrators on the preparation and implementation of change (reclassification). The study also seeks to determine the extent to which the perceptions of teacher quality, opinion of community involvement and preparation differ in the best and least prepared schools and how these influence implementation.

The research was carried out in two phases; (1) a survey of twenty-five comprehensive high schools across Jamaica, involving quantitative analysis. (2) Case studies of two schools, the best and least prepared schools involving qualitative analysis. Analysis of the data collected in phase one revealed significant relationships at the 0.01 level of probability among the three components. Significant relationships were also found among the three

components and perceptions of implementation of reclassification, teacher quality and opinion of community involvement; all at the 0.01 levels of probabilities. The twenty five schools surveyed show significant differences for the three sub-samples for preparation of implementation of reclassification ($p < 0.01$). The implementation of reclassification was perceived to be more successful for schools outside of the Kingston Metropolitan Area.

Analysis of the data for phase two was done qualitatively, using the Constant Comparative Method. School #25 situated OutKMA emerged as the best prepared school. School #24, which is situated in the KMA, came out to be the least prepared school. The leader of school #25 has shown to be proactive and took the initiative to have the school prepared to take on the reclassification process. School #24 did not show much initiative in having the school ready for reclassification. Community involvement was found to be high for the best prepared school.