**LINC 1.1 Activity 1**

**Distinguishing Features of Different Levels of Education**

**Overview**

To begin conceptualizing the differences between and among different levels of education, you will complete the blank chart below to identify their distinguishing features to the best of your knowledge prior to reading the material in your Essential Library. This chart divides the K-12 education system into four sections: Infancy and Toddlerhood (birth-age 3), Early Childhood (PreK), Elementary School (K-8), and High School (9-12). Within this chart, you will identify broad themes that define these levels of education with respect to various organizational, theoretical, and practical dimensions. Once the chart is completed, you can cross-reference your work by reviewing the completed chart in your Essential Library.

**Plan**

Complete the blank Distinguishing Features of Different Levels of Education chart to the best of your knowledge. Once it has been completed, compare your responses to the completed chart available in your Essential Library. Note the areas where your responses align with or depart from those in the completed chart. Consider what areas of departure means in terms of your own understanding of the different levels of education.

**Review**

* Are there some levels of education for which your responses more closely aligned with those provided on the completed chart? Why is this so?
* Are there some levels of education for which your responses departed from those provided on the completed chart? Why is this so?
* Are there some dimensions of education you were more familiar with in terms of their distinguishing features for each level of education?
* Consider the rows, columns, and cells in this chart that were most difficult or unfamiliar to you. Keep a running list of those areas for your reference moving through the remainder of the Essential Library and to inform your work in Activity 2 for Lesson 1.1.

**Reflect**

Reflect on your areas of strength and weakness based on your responses to this chart. What areas are strongest for you? What areas are weakest for you? What are the implications for your strengths and weaknesses in school leadership? How might you devise strategies based on this activity to inform your own growth as a leader?

**Distinguishing Features of Different Levels of Education**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Infancy and Toddlerhood (birth-age 3)** | **Early Childhood (Pre-K)** | **Elementary School (K-8)** | **High School (9-12)** |
| *Philosophy* |  |  |  |  |
| *Vision, mission, purpose, values* |  |  |  |  |
| *Laws* |  |  |  |  |
| *Funding* |  |  |  |  |
| *Administrative structures* |  |  |  |  |
| *Curricular adoption and evaluation* |  |  |  |  |
| *Human resources (staff supervision and development)* |  |  |  |  |
| *Expectations/goal setting* |  |  |  |  |
| *Instructional strategies* |  |  |  |  |
| *Outcome accountability* |  |  |  |  |
| *Family relationships* |  |  |  |  |
| *Transition planning* |  |  |  |  |
| *Services offered* |  |  |  |  |
| *Demographics of learners* |  |  |  |  |
| *Settings (school, community)* |  |  |  |  |
| *Special Education* |  |  |  |  |