



Basic Profile of Teachers in the United States and Mexico: Prospects for Transnational Students

Lucrecia Santibañez

September 13, 2016

Transnational Students, Insular Schools

- 5 million children in the United States born to at least one Mexican parent
- Since 2010, U.S. migration officials have repatriated 1.4 million Mexicans back to Mexico
 - About 500,000 U.S. born/raised children now in Mexican schools
 - Dynamic flows (75% of children want to return some day (Zúñiga & Hamann, 2008; Lakhashi & Jacobo, 2016)
- Children's lives are deeply disrupted by this journey
 - Some comparisons....

Table 1. Basic Teacher Demographics, Mexico and United States

	Mexico	United States
Female	67%	89%
Teachers with BA	51%	41%
Teachers with MA or more	10%	55%
Teachers with less than BA	39%	3%
Median age (years)	39	42
More than 15 years experience	43%	41%
<i>Lives below poverty line</i> ^{/1}		
Elementary teacher candidates (traditional)	58%	n.a.
Indigenous elementary teacher candidates	87%	n.a.

Table 2. Teacher Salaries and Working Conditions, Mexico and United States

	Mexico	United States
Average Base Salary/2	\$22,358	\$52,800
Hours worked (contract hours)	25	38
Hours in front of the classroom	20	31
Average Length of school day (hours)	4.5	6.5
Average length of school year (days)	200	180

- Mexico does not have public dual-immersion (bilingual) schools nor programs to transition Spanish-learners into mainstream classrooms

Table 3. Indicators of Bilingualism in Mexico and the United States

Table 4. Teachers in Mexico by Level of Bilingualism

	Mexico
Popu	<i>Level of English of 9th Grade Teachers</i>
Publi	No knowledge at all 17%
instru	Basic (4th grade English) 25%
	Intermediate (7th grade English) 14%
Week	Competent (9th grade English) 45%
Elem	
Midd	<i>Level of English 9th Grade Students</i>
	No knowledge at all 79%
	Basic (4th grade English) 13%
	Intermediate (7th grade English) 5%
	Competent (9th grade English) 3%

Source: O'Donoghue & Calderón Martín del Campo (2015).

Mexican schools are unprepared to help transnational students succeed

- Despite the students, and peoples we share ...
 - Schools and teachers in both countries present a stark contrast
 - Neither are taking advantage of our shared talents
- Just as it happens in the U.S., Mexican schools are not equipped to help transnational students keep language and other valuable assets
- Ignoring the reality of transnational students disrupts children's lives, and our own countries' futures