

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910219963903321
Titolo	Focus on the wonder years : challenges facing the American middle school / / Jaana Juvonen ... [et al.]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Santa Monica, CA, : Rand, 2004
ISBN	1-282-45136-7 9786612451362 0-8330-3615-7
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (181 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	JuvonenJaana LeVi-Nhuan KaganoffTessa AugustineCatherine ConstantLouay
Disciplina	373.236
Soggetti	Middle schools - United States Middle school education - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"Prepared for the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation." "RAND Education." Errata slip included.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 137-155).
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Preface; The RAND Corporation Quality Assurance Process; Contents; Figures; Tables; Summary; Acknowledgements; Abbreviations; CHAPTER ONE - Goals, Terms, Methods, and Organization; Purpose; Defining Our Terms; Methodology; Scope; Organization; A Final Note; CHAPTER TWO - A Brief History of the U.S. Middle School; From an "Eight-Four" to a "Six-Six" Grade Configuration; The First Junior High Schools; The Junior High Becomes the Middle School; A Middle School Concept Emerges in the 1980's; Developmental Responsiveness in the 1990's; Role of Professional Organizations Recent Debates and Research Findings Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas; CHAPTER THREE - Core Practices of the Middle School Concept; Interdisciplinary Team Teaching; Flexible Scheduling; Advisory Programs; A More Recent Practice: Looping; Obstacles for Implementation; Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas;

CHAPTER FOUR - Academic Achievement; Sources of Data and Limitations; Comparing U.S. Students with Their Peers in Other Countries; Performance of Middle Grade Students Over Time; Achievement and the Accountability Movement  
Understanding and Addressing Achievement Gaps Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas; CHAPTER FIVE - Conditions for Student Learning; Social-Emotional Problems and School Functioning; Disengagement, Social Alienation, and Dropping Out; Classroom Context and School Climate; School Safety; International Comparisons of Conditions for Learning; Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas; CHAPTER SIX - Principals; Effective Leadership; Principals' Perceptions of School Problems, Tasks, and Goals; Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas  
CHAPTER SEVEN - Promoting Teacher Competence Through Training Preservice Training for Middle School Teachers; Professional Development for Middle School Teachers; Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas; CHAPTER EIGHT - Parental Involvement; The Many Forms of Parental Involvement; Parent Involvement and Student Achievement; Declining Parental Involvement; SASS Analysis of Parental Involvement in Elementary, Middle, and High Schools; CHAPTER NINE - Whole-School Reform Models; Different Ways of Knowing; Turning Points Transforming Middle Schools Model; Making Middle Grades Work  
Middle Start Initiative Talent Development Middle School Model; AIM at Middle Grades Results; Implementation and Sustainability Issues; Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas; CHAPTER TEN - Conclusions and Recommendations; Summary of Findings; Recommendations; Looking to the Future; APPENDIX A - Characteristics of U.S. Public Schools Serving Middle Grades; APPENDIX B - International and National Data Sets; APPENDIX C - Factor Analysis of Health Behavior in School-Aged Children; APPENDIX D - Research Recommendations This; References

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Sommario/riassunto

During the middle school years, young teens undergo multiple physical, socialemotional, and intellectual changes that shape who they are and how they function as adults. The schools young teens attend play a critical role in shaping these futures. Therefore, the state of the U.S. middle school is or should be of concern to all of us.

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