

DUM č. 14 v sadě

2. Aj-2 Reálie anglicky mluvících zemí

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Ročník: maturitní ročníky

Anotace DUMu: Školský systém v USA. Texty a statistická data slouží k rozšíření základních znalostí o školství v USA, zároveň procvičuje kompetenci čtení a porozumění textu v rámci tématu System of education in the USA.

Materiály jsou určeny pro bezplatné používání pro potřeby výuky a vzdělávání na všech typech škol a školských zařízení. Jakékoliv další využití podléhá autorskému zákonu.



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN THE USA

TEACHER'S SHEET

Background information:

No federal education law in USA, responsibility in states, school boards

- *State system (=public schools)*
- *Private system*
- *Home schooling*

K- 12 grades:

<i>Stages: pre-school education (3 – 5 years)</i>	<i>→</i>	<i>nursery school, kindergarten</i>
<i>elementary education (5/6 – 11/12 years)</i>	<i>→</i>	<i>elementary school</i>
<i>secondary education (11/12 – 16/18)</i>	<i>→</i>	<i>middle school / junior high (11/12 – 14 years)</i>
	<i>→</i>	<i>high school / senior high school (14 – 18 years)</i>
<i>further education (18 – 20, 23, 25)</i>	<i>→</i>	<i>community college (18 – 20 years) college, university (18 – 22, 25...)</i>

*Big exams: SAT, ACT (usu in 11th or 12th grade)
High school diploma*

*Universities – undergraduates - BA, BS (+ many others)
graduates - MA, MS (+ many others)
doctorate – PhD*

*Cost: Total, four-year schooling: Public University: \$111,868
Private University: \$161,904*

Task:**Teacher's notes:**

This reading activity's aim is to enrich the students' knowledge of the basic facts about schools in the USA. It should be introduced when students already know at least something about the system of education in the USA.

Print the four short texts and cut them. Divide students into groups of four. Give each student a text and set some time limit when students read their text. They also try to invent the best heading for their text.

The groups are together and students reproduce their text to the others. The student with number 1 starts etc. They discuss suggested headings, offer their own proposals.

With the whole class ask all students to give their headings and vote for the best ones.

(Key: students' own answers, possible headings: 1. US schools, 2. Minorities in US schools, 3. Types of schools, 4. Community Colleges)

Follow-up activity:

Print the other two texts and give them to students. They read them individually or they may read them as homework, in classrooms with the Internet access they can look up more information, using the given websites (e.g. they can update the statistics, etc.)

Zdroje:

www.america.gov

www.usa.gov

www.census.gov

http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb11-ff15.html

Bureau of International Information Programs - brochures

U.S. Department of State - brochures

Archív autorky

Zdroje obrázků:

www.openclipart.org

1. _____

With its commitment to universal free education, the US maintained one of the largest educational enterprises in the world. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly 77 million children and adults are enrolled in American schools from nursery school to college – another 7.2 million are teachers.

Today there are more than 98,000 elementary and secondary schools in the USA, plus more than 4,000 colleges and universities.

Although the overwhelming majority of Americans attend public schools, more than 11% of the 60 million elementary and secondary students are enrolled in private schools. More than a half of the nation's 5 million private school students attend Catholic schools, the nation's oldest private school system. Other private schools are a window on America's religious diversity, including all major Protestant denominations, as well as the Quaker, Islamic, Jewish, and Greek Orthodox faiths.

The mix of public and private schools is even more pronounced at the college level, where students can attend local two-year institution, usually called community college, compete for places at smaller, private liberal arts colleges, or apply for large state universities with huge campuses, which may enrol 35,000 to 50,000 students.

2. _____

The ethnic, racial and social changes in America's schools have mirrored the social and political changes in the country as a whole. Although the US adopted the goal of universal free education early in its history, slavery and segregation excluded African Americans from equal education until the mid-20th century. Other minority groups, including Hispanic and Native Americans, suffered from discrimination during this same period.

American schools today are more diverse than ever before: 43% of all public school students are from minority ethnic groups.

Although Spanish-speaking students constitute the largest foreign-language group, many public schools in large metropolitan areas are the true United Nations in diversity. Vietnamese, Chinese, Hindi, Persian, Arabic, and Russian are the first languages of many youngsters in US public schools. It is not surprising that English as a second language is one of the teaching profession's fastest-growing specialties.

3. _____

US education is characterized by a level of decentralized control almost unknown elsewhere. The federal government does not directly oversee the education; the states do. The US may have national standards but not national curriculum. Federal influence in education has grown over the years, but public education, from school buses to school textbooks, remains the responsibility of states and local communities.

One element of local control today has been an increasing emphasis on choice, not simply between public and private schools but options regarding the kind of teaching that takes place inside them.

Most families send their children to their neighbourhood schools. But in many urban communities they can apply to foreign-language schools, school that emphasize the “back-to-basics” curriculum, or “magnet” school which provides advanced instructions into e.g. arts or science.

Another alternative is charter schools: public schools which operate independently of the local school system, and which give the students more flexibility in offering courses. They also represent a kind of competition to regular public schools.

4. _____

For an American secondary school graduate with a modest academic record, a limited budget, or a need to stay close to home, a four-year college or university may not be an option. An alternative is the community college, which offers affordable tuition and the opportunity to continue living at home.

There are almost 1,200 community colleges in US, where two-year degree programs in medical technology, business, teaching, and computer technology can be found. Other programs reflect more varied interests, often linked directly to job opportunities in the area.

Community colleges date back to early 20th century, a time when America recognized the need for a better-educated workforce. Publicly funded, two-year institutions of higher learning to serve local communities were created. Today the nation’s community colleges, with low fees and liberal admission policies, offer courses to 11.6 million students. They train nurses, firefighters, law officials, emergency medical technicians, computer technologists, radiologists etc.

American Education Timeline

- 1635 The first Latin Grammar School is established in Boston, Massachusetts, to train boys for career in church, state or the courts
- 1636 Harvard College, the first higher education institution in the New World, is founded in Massachusetts.
- 1837 Horace Mann becomes the Head of Massachusetts State Board of Education. His belief in importance of free, universal, public education gains a national audience.
- 1837 Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, the first US college for women, opens with 80 students.
- 1837 Institute of Colored Youth, now Cheney State University of Pennsylvania, is founded, the oldest US institution of higher learning for African Americans.
- 1862 The Land Grant Act, donating public lands to states, becomes law. Proceeds from the states' sale of the lands are used to establish public colleges and universities, many of which are thriving and successful institutions today.
- 1944 The GI Bill provides funding for World War II veterans to attend college.
- 1946 The Fulbright Act is introduced for the international educational exchanges of students and scholars.
- 1947 The *Mendez versus Westminster* court decision ends segregation of Hispanic and white children in California public school.
- 1954 The US Supreme Court declares that racially segregated schools are unconstitutional in *Brown versus Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*.
- 1957 Federal troops enforce the integration of Little Rock High School in Arkansas.
- 1965 Congress provides the first direct federal funding of public education as part of President Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty".
- 1965 Project Head Start, a preschool education program for children from low-income families, begins. Head Start is the longest-running antipoverty program in the USA.
- 1972 Title IX, prohibiting discrimination based on sex in all aspects of education, including athletics, becomes law.
- 1975 The Education of All Handicapped Children Act is signed into law by President Gerald Ford, required that all disabled children be provided a free public education suited to a student's individual needs.
- 2001 President George W. Bush signs the No Child Left Behind Act, mandating national educational standards and testing in all public schools.

Scholastic Stats:

Each autumn, as the new school year begins, the US Census Bureau collects statistics from different sources that offer a quick picture of American education today.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Students enrolled in elementary and secondary schools	55.5 million
Elementary and secondary school students enrolled in private schools	11 percent
Elementary and secondary school students who are minorities	43 percent

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Students enrolled in colleges and universities	19.7 million
Undergraduates who are women	56 percent
Graduate students who are women	59 percent
College degrees awarded each year	4 million

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

Public elementary and secondary schools + colleges	98,706
Private elementary and secondary schools + colleges	33,740
Colleges, community colleges, and universities granting degrees	4,409
Children who are home-schooled	2-3 million*
Teachers in the United States	7.2 million
Average annual salary of a US teacher	\$ 52,800
Public schools with the Internet access	100 percent



*no exact number

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Education Statistics (October 2011)