

Cawelti G. (2003). Lessons from Research Changed. *Educational Research*. (18-21).

It is evident that research in the past has led to substantial changes in our nation's educational policies. Dating back to the 1940s, studies have been conducted that have directly impacted Supreme Court decisions involving education, federal educational policies and procedures, and even locally based decisions on curriculum and instruction. In the article "Lessons from Research that Changed Education", Gordon Cawelti discusses the importance of several past research studies and the lasting impression that they have made on the educational system of the United States.

Gordon Cawelti briefly cites well-known educational and psychological research including: studies conducted by Kenneth and Mamie Clark on racial integrity in 1947 which were used in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that ended the legality of segregated schools; Art Wises's study on inequities in finances and funding conducted in 1967 that ultimately concluded that inequities in funding within a state were a clear violation of the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution; Ron Edmonds' 1979 study on levels of student achievement that proved that having high expectations for student achievement can truly lead to higher levels of achievement; and even Jean Piaget's 1969 study on childhood levels of development which led to a clearer understanding of how children learn and impacted the constructivist approach to teaching. Clearly, all the research referred to in the article has made lasting positive impacts on the educational system of our country. Cawelti urges educators and policy makers to learn from the powerful effects that these studies have had, and to continue such research that can lead to more advances in the field. While much of the past

research was not openly embraced when it first was conducted because it did not meet rigorous scientific standards of control, over the years it has clearly been very beneficial.

Although Gordon Cawelti did not delve into the details of the past research, nor did he provide specific suggestions for future research, he does leave us with the understanding that high quality research can have profound positive effects. Therefore, research must continuously be conducted, modified and improved upon in innovative ways in order to ensure that educators and policy makers are kept abreast of findings that can have potentially great impact on learning for the future.