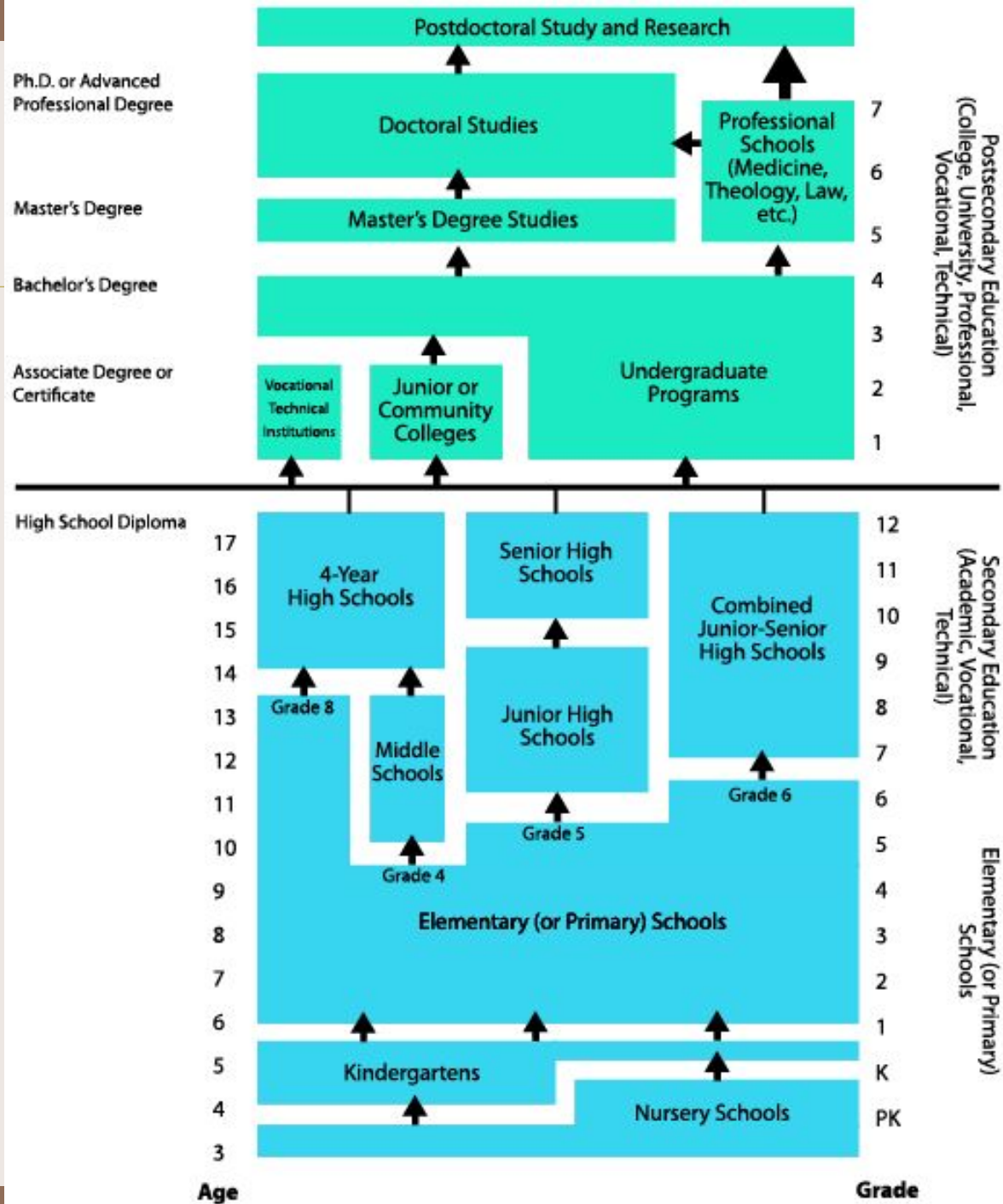
A spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The metal spiral binding is visible on the left side. The title is printed in a large, bold, black serif font, centered on the cover.

**EDUCATION
IN THE UNITED
STATES**

- Public / private / home schooling
- Public education funded by the local → state → federal government (85% of all students)
- The policies (curricula, funding, teaching methods) are set through locally elected school boards with jurisdiction over school districts
- The ages for compulsory education vary by state – from 5-8 to 14-18

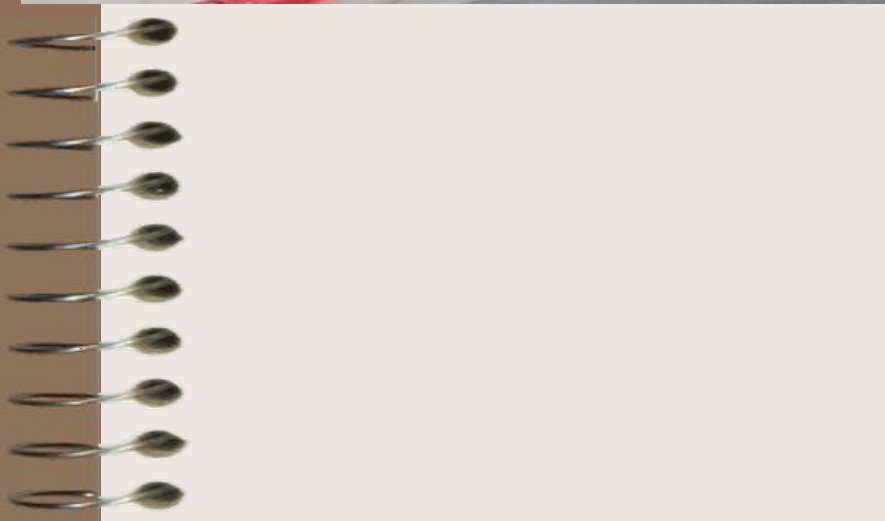


ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

- Admission - based on residency
- the curriculum in public elementary education is determined by individual school districts (14,000 school districts in the country).
- In general, a student learns basic arithmetic and sometimes rudimentary algebra in mathematics, English proficiency (such as basic grammar, spelling, and vocabulary), and fundamentals of other subjects (social studies, sciences)

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

- The **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)** is a United States Act of Congress – a form of the government's aid program for disadvantaged students. NCLB supports standards-based education reform based on the premise that setting high standards and establishing measurable goals can improve individual outcomes in education. The Act requires states to develop assessments in basic skills.
- The Act does not assert a national achievement standard; standards are set by each individual state. NCLB expanded the federal role in public education through annual testing, annual academic progress, report cards, teacher qualifications, and funding changes.



SECONDARY EDUCATION

- **Junior high school**
 - 7th, 8th, 9th grade
 - students are given more independence, moving to different classrooms for different subjects, and being allowed to choose some of their class subjects (electives)

SECONDARY EDUCATION

- **Senior high school**
 - (9th) 10th through 12th grade.
 - The students in these grades are commonly referred to as freshmen (grade 9), sophomores (grade 10), juniors (grade 11) and seniors (grade 12).

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Curriculum:

- mandatory subjects (studied for 2, 3 or 4 years):
 - Science (biology, chemistry and physics)
 - Mathematics (algebra, geometry, pre-calculus, statistics)
 - English (literature, humanities, composition, oral languages, etc.)
 - Social sciences (history, government/economics courses)
 - Physical education

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Curriculum:

- Electives

- Computers (word processing, programming, graphic design)
- Athletics (cross country, football, baseball, basketball, softball, wrestling, **cheerleading**, volleyball, lacrosse, ice hockey, field hockey, **marching band**, etc.)
- Career and Technical Education (Agriculture/Agriscience, Business/Marketing, Family and Consumer Science, Health Occupations, and Technology Education, including Publishing)
- Performing Arts/Visual Arts, (choir, band, orchestra, drama, art, ceramics, photography, and dance)
- Foreign languages (usually Spanish or French)
- Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

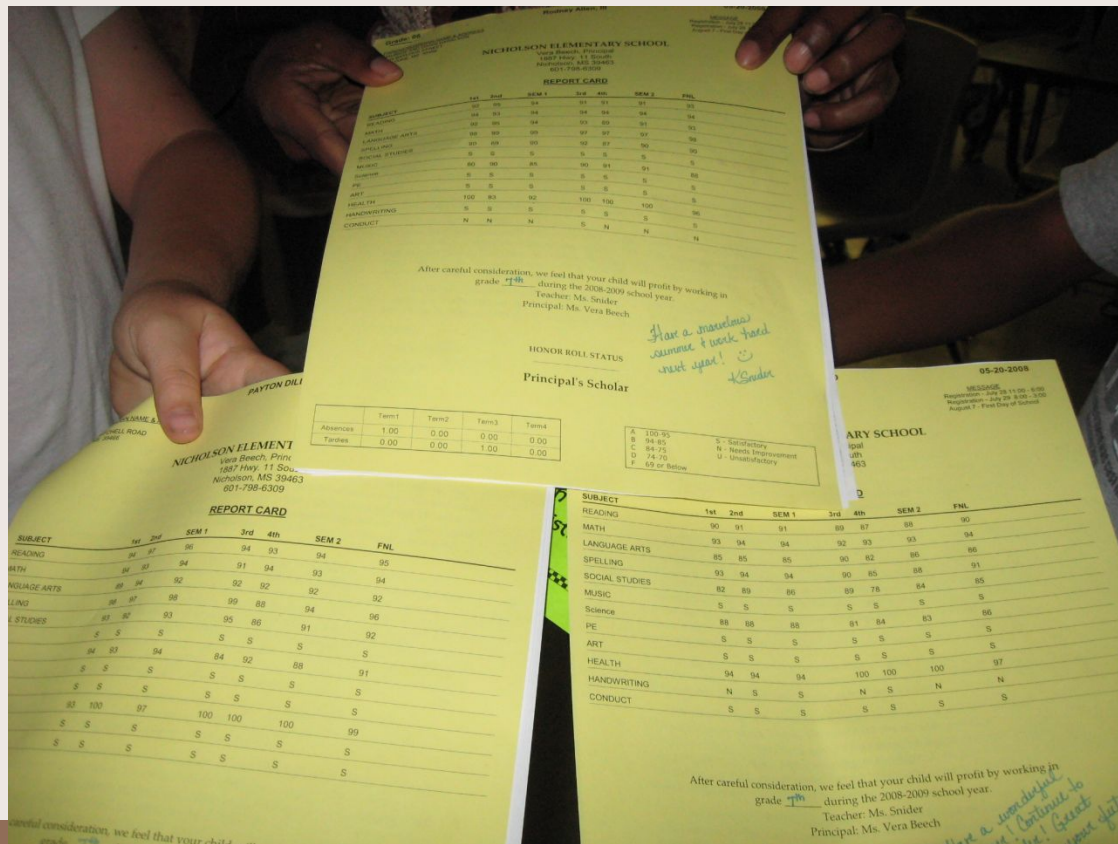
SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Grading
 - The scale

Example Grading Scale												
A			B			C			D			F or E
+		-	+		-	+		-	+		-	
100-97	96-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	Below 60 Percent

SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Grading
 - Report cards



SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Testing

- yearly state tests to measure the "adequate yearly progress." (NCLB Act)
- SAT Reasoning Test - (formerly Scholastic Aptitude Test and Scholastic Assessment Test) a standardized test for college admissions in the United States. Introduced in 2005, it takes three hours and forty-five minutes, and costs \$49. Possible scores range from 600 to 2400, combining test results from three 800-point sections (math, critical reading, and writing).

SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Testing

- The **ACT** (*American College Testing*) is a standardized test for high school achievement and college admissions in the United States produced by ACT, Inc. From 1959 a competitor to the SAT Reasoning Test. The ACT test has historically consisted of four tests: English, Math, Reading, and Science reasoning. In 2005, an optional writing test was added to the ACT.

SAT	ACT Composite score
2400	36
2340–2390	35
2280–2330	34
2220–2270	33
2160–2210	32
2100–2150	31
2040–2090	30
1980–2030	29
1920–1970	28
1860–1910	27
1800–1850	26
1740–1790	25
1680–1730	24
1620–1670	23
1560–1610	22
1500–1550	21
1440–1490	20
1380–1430	19
1320–1370	18
1260–1310	17
1200–1250	16
1140–1190	15
1080–1130	14
1020–1070	13
960–1010	12
900–950	11

HIGHER EDUCATION

- College/university distinction
- Private ones – more prestigious
- Tuition
 - varies from state to state. In 2009, average annual tuition (education costs only) was:
 - a public university (for residents of the state) - \$7,020
 - a public university (for non-residents) - \$18,545
 - a private university - \$26,273
 - + accommodation and board - \$7,000 - \$9,000
 - Loans – e.g. The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program - "low-interest loans for students and parents to help pay for the cost of a student's education after high school. The lender is the U.S. Department of Education ... rather than a bank or other financial institution."

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Grant and scholarship programs (merit-based and need-based); government-sponsored and privately-sponsored
- community colleges (sometimes called junior colleges, technical colleges, or city colleges) - two-year public institutions providing higher education and lower-level tertiary education; they usually offer the associate's degree

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Admissions based on:
 - grades earned in high school, (the students' GPA)
 - class ranking
 - standardized test scores (the SAT or the ACT tests).
 - other, subjective factors: a commitment to extracurricular activities, a personal essay, and an interview.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- undergraduate study:
 - (1st year) freshman year
 - (2nd year) sophomore year
 - (3rd year) junior year
 - (4th year) senior year
 - ⇒ bachelor's degree (eg. BA, BSc)

*- major/ minor
- graduate study
 - 2, 3 years ⇒ master's degree (eg. MA, MSc)
- postgraduate study
 - ⇒ Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) or other doctoral degrees

HIGHER EDUCATION

- The quality of American universities:

- Best:

- The Ivy League:

- Brown University,
 - Columbia University,
 - Cornell University,
 - Dartmouth College,
 - Harvard University,
 - Princeton University,
 - the University of Pennsylvania
 - Yale University



- Massachusetts Institute of Technology





















A college at Princeton Univ.

- „Little Ivies” - old, small, exclusive, and academically competitive liberal arts colleges located in the northeastern United States.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- The quality of American universities:
 - public universities (state universities)
 - rely on subsidies from their respective state government but also seek private support; generally charge higher tuition to out-of-state students
 - „Public Ivies”: the University of Michigan, UCLA, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Virginia, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the College of William and Mary (Virginia), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,

Top 20 World Universities

1.	 <u>Harvard University</u>
2.	 <u>Stanford University</u>
3.	 <u>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</u>
4.	 <u>University of California, Berkeley</u>
5.	 <u>University of Cambridge</u>
6.	 <u>California Institute of Technology</u>
7.	 <u>Princeton University</u>
8.	 <u>Columbia University</u>
9.	 <u>University of Chicago</u>
10.	 <u>University of Oxford</u>
11.	 <u>Yale University</u>
12.	 <u>University of California, Los Angeles</u>
13.	 <u>Cornell University</u>
14.	 <u>University of Pennsylvania</u>
15.	 <u>University of California, San Diego</u>
16.	 <u>University of Washington</u>
17.	 <u>Johns Hopkins University</u>
18.	 <u>University of California, San Francisco</u>
19.	 <u>University of Wisconsin–Madison</u>
20.	 <u>University of Tokyo</u>

according to *Academic Ranking of World Universities*

Some current issues in the US education system:

- standardization of curricula
- Pros and cons of standardized testing
- Racial achievement gap
- Violence and drug use
- Sex education
- Cheating
- Affirmative action