DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 302 876 EA 020 416

AUTHOR Pavan, Barbara Nelson; McKee, Christine C.

TITLE Gender Differences in the Career Paths of Educational

Administrators in Pennsylvania.

PUB DATE Apr 88

NOTE 26p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the

American Educational Research Association (New

Orleans, LA, April 5-9, 1988).

PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) --

Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS *Administrators; *Career Change; Elementary Secondary

Education; *Occupational Mobility; *Principals; *Sex

Differences; *Superintendents

IDENTIFIERS *Pennsylvania

ABSTRACT

This study explored possible gender differences between the career paths of incumbent educational administrators holding the positions of superintendent, assistant superintendent, secondary principal, and elementary principal. Study data had been obtained from an earlier comprehensive survey of 622 incumbent and aspiring Pennsylvania admir.istrators. That study explored five areas: career pathways, job search strategies, time usage, mentors and their functions, and barriers experienced with strategies to overcome them. The present study, which did not include aspirants, focused on line versus staff career patterns, the use of leaves, the number of moves among districts, degrees obtained, age at beginning administrative positions, and family characteristics. A majority of respondents pursued a line career path, with men (71 percent) more likely than women (52 percent) to have one. For both the superintendency and the elementary principalship, line paths were followed by men (82 percent) and women (54 percent). Both genders used line paths to reach the secondary principalship. For the assistant superintendency, women followed a staff path (73 percent) and men a line path (54 percent). Results for leaves, district moves, length of teaching service, and age and family characteristics are also discussed. Recommendations for practitioners are provided, including the importance of obtaining line positions, developing employment str tegies for females, reviewing hiring and promotion standards and analyzing them for equity, and encouraging support groups. Recommendations for further research are also provided. Included are 14 references and 11 tables. (MLH)

^{*} Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made

Gender Differences in the Career Paths Of Educational Administrators in Pennsylvania

BARBARA NELSON PAVAN Temple University 003-00 Philadelphia, PA 19122

Christine C. McKee School District of Philadelphia Philadelphia, PA 19103

Paper Presented at

The American Educational Research Association

New Orleans, Louisiana

April, 1988

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have bean made to improve rap*oduction quality

 Foints of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy "PERMISSIC" TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

B. Havan

TO THE EDUC ATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine if gender differences exist between the career paths of incumbent educational administrators holding the positions of superintendent, assistant superintendent, secondary principal, and elementary principal. The data analyzed for this study had been obtained from a comprehensive survey of 622 incumbent and aspiring administrators conducted by Pavan which probed five areas: career pathways, job search strategies, time usage, mentors and their functions, and barriers experienced with strategies to overcome them. Random samples of 100 for each position by gender had been drawn with the total population used in cases where fewer than 100 were employed. The response rate was 53% with 298 respondents. Aspirants were not included in this study. This study concentrated on line versus staff career patterns, the use of leaves, the number of moves among districts, degrees obtained, years within teaching, years within administrative positions, the age at which administrative positions were begun, and family characteristics.

A line career path was taken by 65% of the respondents with men (71%) more likely than women (52%) to have one. To obtain the superintendency, line paths were followed by men (82%) and women (54%). Line paths were used by both genders to reach the principalship: 82% of the men and 54% of the



women for elementary and 64% of the men and 67% of the women for secondary. For the assistant superintendency, women had a staff path (73%) and men had a line path (54%). Leaves were taken by 21% of the respondents: 16% of the women with family and 14% with study leaves and 16% of the men with study and 1% with military leaves. The number of moves to a new district was associated more with position than gender with superintendents moving most often (3.07 times). Women taught significantly longer than men (10 versus 8 years). Men held line administrative positions longer than women and began them at a younger age. While 93% of the men were married with 67% having young children, only 68% of the women were married with 24% having young children.

The purpose of this study was to determine if gender differences exist between the career paths of incumbent educational administrators holding the positions of superintendent, assistant superintendent, secondary principal, and elementary principal and what those differences were. Other items examined for differences by gender, position, and gender and position were: the use of leaves, the number of moves among districts, degrees obtained, years spent within the classroom, years spent within administrative positions, the age at which administrative positions were begun, and family characteristics.

Research Design

The method of research was ex post facto in order to investigate the possible associations between the genders, positions, and gender and positions of incumbent administrators. A survey questionnaire developed by B. N. Pavan of Temple University was used to collect the data.

Population and Sample

The population available included all certified and employed professional educators in Pennsylvania. Except in instances where employment in position by gender is less than one hundred, random samples of 100 were drawn from populations with certificates issued since January, 1970 (Pavan, 1986). For the purpose of this study, the sample



included only those who were incumbent at the time, that is, in an administrative position for the 1985-1986 school year.

Surveys were sent to 100 randomly selected individuals in the following categories: male superintendents, male assistant superintendents, male secondary principals, male elementary principals, and female elementary principals.

Surveys were sent to the total population for the following positions held by women: secondary principal (29), assistant superintendent (14), and superintendent (19). The total number of male and female incumbents in the sample was 562 with 298 respondents for a response rate of 53%.

Instrument

The four-page survey instrument was designed by B. N. Pavan of Temple University for those in possession of administrative certificates whether or not currently employed as a school administrator. Appropriate categories were gleaned from an extensive literature review. Pilot studies of various parts of the survey were done on women during several conference presentations. The complete instrument was tested on a small group of men and women (N = 12) outside of Pennsylvania but representative of those who would be given the final version to check the format. In addition to personal characteristics requested on the survey, it probed five areas: career pathways, job search strategies, time usage, mentors and their functions, and barriers experienced with strategies to overcome them (Pavan, 1986).



Summary of the gender Differences

A line career path was taken by 65 percent of the respondents with men more likely on a line path than women, 71 percent versus 52 percent. To obtain the superintendency, 83 percent of the men and 54 percent of the women and for the elementary principalship, 83 percent of the men and 51 percent of the women used a line career path. Both men (64 percent) and women (67 percent) used a line path career path to obtain the secondary principalship. Women (73 percent) were more likely to use a staff career path and men (54 percent) a line career path for the assistant superintendency.

Leaves were taken by only 21 percent of the respondents. Sixteen percent of the women accounted for the family leaves and 14 percent of the women for the study leaves. Sixteen percent of the men accounted for the study leaves and 1 percent of the men for the military leaves. Thirty-eight percent of the superintendents used leaves: 4 percent for family and 34 percent for study. Twenty-six percent of the assistant superintendents used leaves: 2 percent family, 22 percent study, and 2 percent for military. Eleven percent of the secondary principals used leaves: 4 percent for family, 6 percent for study, and 1 percent for military. Twelve percent of the elementary principals used leaves: 8 percent for family and 4 percent



for study. Leaves were taken by 47 percent of the female superintendents, 36 percent of the female assistant superintendents, 33 percent of the male superintendents, and 33 percent of the female secondary principals. Less than one-fourth of the respondents in the other categories used leaves.

The number of moves to new districts was more associated with position rather than gender. The average number of moves for all respondents was 1.75 with women moving 1.71 times and men moving 1.76 times. Superintendents had significantly more moves (3.07) to other districts than all other positions. Assistant superintendents (2.13) had more moves to other districts than secondary (1.15) or elementary (1.24) principals. Female superintendents moved most frequently (3.69) with male superintendents moving 2.93 times.

When considering the effect that educational variables may have on the career paths of educational administrators, no significant differences appear for Bachelors', Masters', or Doctoral degrees.

Women spent ten years in teaching while men taught for eight years. Elementary principals taught for eleven years which was significantly longer than assistant superintendents or superintendents who taught seven years each. Secondary principals taught for nine years which is



significantly longer than superintendents who taught for seven.

When analyzing the number of years spent in each administrative position, gender was significant with men in the position for a longer period of time than women for the positions of: elementary principalship, nine years versus six years; secondary principalship, eight years versus five years; and the superintendency, seven years versus four years. Only in the building and district staff positions and the assistant superintendency was gender not significant. When analyzing the years spent in administrative jobs, the current position held was significant for the positions of: elementary principalship with superintendents holding the position three to four years less than any other group and secondary principalship with respondents in that group holding the position five to six years longer than the other groups.

When analyzing the number of years spent in each administrative position, gender was significant with men in the position for a longer period of time than women for the positions of: elementary principalship, nine years versus six years; secondary principalship, eight years versus five years; and the superintendency, seven years versus four years. Only in the building and district staff positions and the assistant superintendency was gender not significant. When analyzing the years spent in



administrative jobs, the current position held was significant for the positions of elementary principalship with superintendents holding the position three to four years less than any other group and the secondary principalship with respondents in that group holding the position five to six years longer than the other groups.

Women were significantly older than men when starting the following positions: district level support (F = 37, M = 34); elementary principalship (F = 39, M = 32); secondary principalship (F = 40, M = 36); and the superintendency (F = 45, M = 39). Assistant superintendents, a econdary principals, and elementary principals were older when beginning their current job than those respondents who had been in the same position earlier in their careers.

Analysis of family data indicated that 17 percent of the women and 2 percent of the men had never married and 68 percent of the women and 93 percent of the men were married. Fifty-three percent of the women only 44 percent of the men were the first born or only child in their families. Only 27 percent of the women and 56 percent of the men had children age 17 and under.

Discussion

When comparing the results of this research to the review of literature (Ortiz, 1982), it is found that men still predominate in line positions and follow line rather than staff career paths in educational administration. Only



a small percentage of the respondents took leaves which agrees with the research done by Rometo (1982) who stated that less time is being taken from one's position regardless of the reason. Study is the major reason for leaves which concurs with other studies that indicate a decline in family leaves (McQuigg and Carlton, 1980). Although men moved slightly more than women, it is female superintendents who have moved the most which agrees with the results of other studies that geographic mobility can be a key element to advancement (Peter, 1986). Studies reveal that women remain in the classroom significantly longer than men (Schneider, This is true for the respondents in this study as 1986). well. After leaving teaching, women are in staff positions for a longer period than men (Tracy, 1985) as were the respondents in this study. When women included in this research received administrative positions, they were significantly older than men just as the women who ve been studied by others (Fowler, 1983). Female educational administrators in this study were likely to be the first born or only child in their families as were those about whom Shakeshaft reported (1987). Women administrators surveyed by others, as well as the women in this study, were married much less frequently than men and had fewer children (Johnston, Yeakey, Moore, 1980).



Recommendations for Practice

- 1. Aspiring administrators or administrative certificate holders should review this study to determine the elements in the careers of incumbents most beneficial for advancement: that is, obtaining line positions appears to be most useful.
- 2. Faculty within the graduate departments of educational leadership should be aware of the hiring and promotion trends and help female students to develop employment strategies.
- 3. School district personnel departments should review their hiring and promotion standards and analyze them for equity. School boards should more carefully examine the qualifications of applicants regardless of gender.
- 4. School board policies should be developed that encourage administrators to seek out and recommend worthy potential candidates of both genders for in-service administrative preparation programs, special assignments, or to attend system wide conferences where administrative issues will be discussed.
- 5. Informal or formal support groups should be formed to share information about job openings, special programs, and administrative management strategies.



©. School Districts should investigate the feasibility of day care services within a school or district to aid aspirants and incumbents who have children to enter administration or maintain and develop their administrative careers.

Recommendations for Further Research

- 1. Using the same data base compare certified aspiring administrators to determine now their career paths differ from the confidence incumbent administrators.
- 2. Interview the incumbent administrators who responded to this survey to determine how they obtained line positions as they moved up the career ladder.
- 3. Survey graduates of educational administration preparation programs to determine their understanding of the effects of line and staff paths on their career advancement.



REFERENCES

- Fowler, A. "Male and Female Administrators in Washington: A Comparison of Selected Characteristics." Ph.D. Washington State University, 1983.
- Johnston, G., C. Yeakey and S. Moore. "An Analysis of the Employment of Women in Professional Administrative Positions in Public Education." Planning and Changing 11 (1980): 115-132.
- Marshall, C. "Men and Women in Educational Administration Programs." Journal of the National Association of Women Deans. Administrators. and Counselors 48 (1984): 3-12.
- McKee, C.M. "Gender Differences in the Career Paths of Educational Administrators in Pennsylvania." Ed.D., Temple University, 1988.
- McQuigg, B.D. and P.W. Carlson. "Women Administrators and America's Schools: A National Dilemma." <u>High School Journal</u> 64 (1980): 50-54.
- Ortiz, F.I. <u>Career Paterns in Education: Women. Men.</u> and <u>Minorities in Public School Administration</u>. South Hadley, MA: Bergin Publishers, 1982.
- Paddock, S.C. "Women Principals: The Rule or the Exception?" NASSP Bulletin 64 (1982): 1-4.
- Pavan, B.N. "Aspiration Levels of Certified and Incumbent Female and Male Public School Administrators." American Educational Research Association. Washington, D.C.: 1987c.
- Pavan, B.N. "Barriers to Hiring and Promotion Experienced by Certified and Incumbent Female and Male Public School Administraotrs." American Education Research Association. San Francisco: 1986b.
- Peters, M. "Career Path Patterns of Public School
 District Superintendents in the State of Texas and
 Perceptions of Superintendents and a Panel of
 Experts Regarding Desirable Professional
 Development and Experience for the
 Superintendency." Ph.D. diss., North Texas State
 University, 1986.



- Rometo, L. "Women Administrators in Pennsylvania's Public Schools--Overcoming Barriers to Recruitment and Promotion." Ed.D. diss., Temple University, 1982.
- Schneider, G.T. "Career Path and Mobility Differences of Women and Men in Educational Administration."

 American Educational Research Association. San Francisco: 1986.
- Shakeshaft, C. <u>Women in Educational Administration</u> Newbury Park: Sage Publications, 1987.
- Tracy, S. "Career Patterns and Aspirations of Elementary School Principals: The Gender Difference." <u>Journal of the National Association of Women Deans</u>. Administrators. and Counselors 49 (1985): 23-28.



Line and Staff Paths

Descriptive Data and Statistical Analysis

		LINE			STAFF		
	N		% of Total	N	% of Gender	% of Total	Sig
<u>All</u>	194		65	86		29	
Gender							
.:	•	LINE			STAFF		
	N	% of Gender		N	% of Gender		Sig
Female	48	52		42	45		.00
Males (raw ch		71 are = 15.	86, df =	44	21		
(raw ch	i squa		86, df =				
	i squa	re = 15.			STAFF % of Position		Sig
(raw ch	i squa	LINE		1)	STAFF		Sig
(raw ch	i squa	LINE % of Position		N N	STAFF % of Position		_
(raw ch Positio	ns N 57 28	LINE % of Positio		N 14	STAFF % of Position 19		_
(raw ch	ns N 57 28	LINE % of Positio 78 49		N 14 26	STAFF % of Position 19 46		_



Line and Staff Paths

Descriptive Data and Statistical Analysis

Gender a	and E	osition					
		LINE			STAFF		
	N	% of Gender	% of Gender/ Position	n N	% of Gender	% o Gen Pos	der/
Sup't Female	.7	8	54	6	6	46	.0052
Male	49	24	82	7	3	12	
(Raw chi	squ	are = 7.8	31, df = 1))			
Ass't Su Female		3	27	8	9	73	.0675
Male	25	46	54	18	9	39	
(raw chi	squ	are = 3.3	34, df = 1)				
Sec Prin Female	12	13	67	 5	5	28	.8425
Male	34	17	64 1	6	8	32	
(raw chi	squa	are = .03	, df = 1)				
Ele Prin							
Female	26	29	51 2:	3	25	45	.0000
Male	38	19	83 :	3	1	7	
(mare all)	00113	re - 17	05, df = 1				

Leaves Taken by School Administrators

		<u>Family</u>	S	<u>study</u>	Mi	<u>litary</u>		
	N	% of Total		% of Total		% of Total		of otal
A11 	15	5	46	15	2	0.7	63	21
Gender								
	N	% of Gender	N	% of Gender	N	% of Gender		
Females	15	16	13	14	-		28/30	.000
					_			
		 ire - 21 1		16	2	1	35/17	
(raw-chi		re = 21.2				1	35/17 	
(raw-chi	 		22, d	f = 4)		% of	Total	Sig.
Males (raw.chi Positions	 	% of	22, d	f = 4)		% of	Total	Sig.
(raw-chi	N 3	% of Position	22, d	f = 4) % of osition		% of	Total	Sig.
(raw-chi Positions	N 3	% of Position 4	22, d N Po 25	f = 4) % of osition 34	N E	% of Position	Total N / % 28/38	Sig. 3 .00
Craw-chi Positions Sup't	N 3	% of Position 4	22, d N Po 25	f = 4) % of osition 34 22	N F	% of Position 2	Total N / % 28/38 15/28	Sly.

Leaves Taken by School Administrators

% of Gender 3	N 6 20	% of Gender 6 10	N - -	% of Gender	Total N / %
3 -			-		
					20/33
1 .	3 10	3 5	<u>-</u>	 0.5	4/36 11/24
3 -	3	3 0.5	- 1	0.5	6/33 2/ 4
9 -	1 2	1 1	-		9/18 2/ 4
	46		2		63/21
	9 - 1 square =	3 3 - 1 9 1 - 2 46	3 3 3 - 1 0.5 9 1 1 - 2 1 46 1 square = 4.86	3 3 3 - - 1 0.5 1 9 1 1 - - 2 1 - 46 2 1 square = 4.86	3 3 3 1 0.5 1 0.5 9 1 1 2 1

df = 3 p = 0.18



Mobili'y

Number of Districts in Which Each Respondent Was Employed

Total Population

Mean Number				
	Fe	male	Male	
Mean Number		.71 90	1.76 190	
F = 3.324 p. = .069				
	Sup't	Ass't Sup't	Sec Prin	Ele Prin
Mean Number	3.07 69	2.13 54	1.15 6 7	.94 90
F = 21.715 p. = .001				
	Sup't	Ass't Sup't	Sec Prin	Ele Prin
Female Mean Number	3.69 13	2.27 11	1.18 17	1.24 49
Male Mean Number	2.93 56	2.09 43	1.14 50	.59 41
F = .472 p. = .702				



Educational Variables

	Bachelors'	Masters'	Doctoral
	N/Mean Age	N/Mean Age	N/Mean Age
A11	210 / 23	206 / 29	78 / 39
Females	66 / 23	65 / 30	24 / 39
Males	144 / 23	141 / 28	54 / 39
	f = .71	f = 3.23	f = .084
	p = .39	p = .074	p = .773
Sup't	54 / 24	53 / 29	38 / 38
Ass't Sup't	36 / 23	36 / 28	25 / 40
Sec Prin	73 / 23	47 / 29	9 / 38
Ele Prin	47 / 22	70 / 29	6 / 39
	f = 1.08	f = .308	f = .210
	p = .35	p = .820	p = .889
F Sup't	10 / 25	10 / 31	9 / 38
M Sup't	44 / 23	43 / 28	29 / 39
F Ass't Sup't	8 / 23	8 / 29	6 / 43
M Ass't Sup't	28 / 23	28 / 28	19 / 39
F Sec Prin	10 / 21	10 / 29	5 / 39
M Sec Prin	37 / 23	37 / 29	4 / 38
F Ele Prin	38 / 22	37 / 30	4 / 37
M Ele Prin	35 / 23	33 / 28	2 / 42
	f = 1.51	f = .512	f = .592
	p = .212	p = .674	p = .622



Years in Teaching

Mean Years Number		Total 8.8 271				
Mean Years Number	Female 10.45 88		Male 8.11 183			
F = 14.53 p = .0002						
Mean Years Number		't Sup't 7.26 50	9	Prin .28		Ele Prin 10.71 91
F = 9.089 P = .0000						
Student-New	man-Keuls Pro	ocedure		<u> </u>		<u>_</u> _
MEAN 7.26 7.35	Ass't Su		AS	S	EP	SP
9.28 10.71	Superinte Sec Prin Ele Prin	endents	*	*		

* = pairs of groups significantly different
at the .05 level



Years In Administrative Positions By Gender and Position

	STAFF		L	NE		
	Build'g Staff	Dis't Staff	Ele Prìn		A Sup't	Sup't
Gender Females						
N Years	18 6	39 5	54 6	25 5	16 5	13 4
Males						
N Years	30 4	59 5	73 9	105 8	7 9 7	6 0 7
F · i	2.92 .094	.915 .341	13.86	14.00	. 424 . 516	5.10 .026
Present Position			-			
Ele Prin	Build'g Staff	Dìs't Staff	Ele Prin	Sec Prin	A Sup't	Sup't
N Years	7 8	20 7	89 9	4 4	<u>-</u>	-
Sec Prin N	20	11	5	70	_	
Years	5	4	8	10	-	
Ass't Sup N Years	12 4	32 5	1 6 9	22 5	53 8	4 8
Sup't N Years	10 6	3 5 5	17 5	34 5	42 6	70 7
F P	1.76 .167	1.79 .153	3. 6 5	9.93 .001	.850 .358	.140



23

Age Beginning Administrative Positions By Gender and Position

	STAF	E		LINE		
<u>Gender</u> St Females	Build'g aff S	Dis't taff P	Ele rin Pr	Sec in	A Sup	't Sup't
N Age	18 31	39 37		24 40	16 42	
Males						
N Age	57 34	30 30		102 36	76 40	61 39
F :	.86 .35	3.98 .049	18.7 .001	5.92 .016	.59 .44	4.78 .032
Present Po Ele Prin	osition					
N Age	6 28	20 35	86 37	4 33	-	-
Sec Prin						
N Age	20 33	11 3 9	5 34	66 40	- -	-
Ass't Sup						
N Age	12 31	31 34	16 32	22 35	51 41	5 31
Sup't N Age	10 28	34 35	17 29	34 32	41 39	69
F p	2.34 .087	1.46 .230		14.1	4.44 .038	41 6.33 .014

٠Ţ

Family Characteristics Data

Marital :	Statu	lsi					
<u>Gender</u>	Never Married		Married		Se	rced/ parated/ dowed	
	N	% of Gender	N	% of Gender	N	% of Gender	Tota!
Females Males	15 4	17 2	61 177	68 93	14 9	16 5	90 190
(raw chi	squa	re = 34.	32,	df = 2,	p = .	.0000>	
Position		ever Married		Married	Sepa	vorced/ arated/ dowed	
:	N :	% of Position	N	% of Positio	n N	% of Position	n Total

(raw chi square = 6.16, df = 6, p = .4045)

3 6 1 2 6 9

Sup't

A Sup't Sec Prin

Ele Prin

delider and Position		
Never Married	Married	Divorced/ Separated/ Widowed

	Never Married Married		Separated/ Widowed				
	N	% of Gender & Position	N	% of Gender & Position	G	of Gender & Cosition	Total
F Sup't M Sup't	2	15 2	7 50	54 89	2 2	31 4	11 53
F A Sup't M A Sup't	4	24 2	7 40	64 93	4 2	36 5	15 43
F Sec Pri		24 4	12 48	71 96	4 4	12 8	2 0 56
F Ele Prin		18 	35 39	71 9 5	4	8 2	48 40

(raw chi square = 54.83, df = 14, p = .0000)



	Sibling Position	Number of Children	
A11	N 128	N . 91	
<u>Gender</u>			
	% of N Gender	% of N Gender	Number of Children
Female Male	48 53 84 44	25 27 161 79	.45 1.13
	F = 5.89 df = 3 p = .052	F = 15.36 df = 1 p = .001	
Position			
	% of N Position	% of N Gender	Number of Children
Sup't A Sup't Sec Prin Ele Prin	32 46 26 48 23 34 47 52	52 71 44 77 39 55 51 53	1.13 1.02 .75 .51
	F = 5.43 df = 3 p = .143	F = .854 df = 3 p = .466	.51
Gender ar	nd Position		
	% of Gender & N Position	% of N Gender	Number of Children
F Sup't M Sup't	7 54 20 47	4 33 36 60	.23 1.34
F A Sup't M A Sup't		3 27 27 43	.64 1.11
F Sec Pri M Sec Pri		5 2 ଓ 27 51	.33 .89
F Ele Pri M Ele Pri		8 16 29 63	.50 1.18
	F = 8.32 df = 7 p = .3051	F = .4.15 df = 7 p = .707	

