This new edition of The Political Dynamics of American Education is a major revision of the most widely used text in the politics of education. The authors have devised an original conceptual framework to organize and chart the increasingly complex political web of American education. These competing forces of challenge and steady state now affect all levels of policymaking and administration. Combined, these conflicting forces constitute the “dynamic” nature of American education.

Part I: Concepts and Historical Perspectives.
1. Overview of the Education Political System. Describes the forces that have caused increased political conflict in schools. Overviews the political systems theory and how it relates to the book. Provides the organizational and conceptual basis for the volume.

2. Conflict, Politics, and Schools. Discusses the challenges that produce conflict in schools today.

3. The Origins and Agents of School Demands. Presents the concept of interest groups and the nature of conflict, coalition, and formation of educational groups. Explores the influence of the media on school politics.


5. Local School Boards, Politics, and the Community. Analyzes the patterns of influence in the local school community and the implications of increased conflict for local leadership.


7. The Chief Administrator as Professional and Politician. Explores the role of the superintendent as both a professional educator and politician. Describes superintendent behavior amidst educational change.

8. The Micropolitics within Schools. Examines the politics within the local schools, describes interactions between citizens and professionals, looks at the role of the principal, and considers teachers as political actors.

Part II: Politics at the Local Level.

9. The History and Evolution of the State Role in Education Policy. Examines the growing state role in education and describes state policymaking.

10. The State Political Process. Presents the key participants and institutions involved in policymaking.


12. Court Functions amid Conflict over Change. Shows the increased impact of the courts on educational policymaking and examines litigation as a political strategy and the limits of judicial influence.

Part III: State, Federal, and Judicial Politics.

13. Politics of Charter Schools: Competing National Advocacy Coalitions Meet Local Politics. Examines the politics of charter schools at the local, state, and national levels. Describes the support for and resistance to charters.

14. Policy Implementation and Evaluation. Focuses on the implementation of policy by examining two major current reforms: state-level school choice (vouchers and charter schools) and the federal-level school-improvement policy (No Child Left Behind legislation). Considers evaluation of policy, to answer the question, Did the policy work?

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This book is recommended for use in these courses: Politics of Education, School-Community Relations, Educational Policymaking, Educational Foundations.
The fourth edition of The Political Dynamics of American Education places more emphasis on school choice, reflecting the political conflict and stress evident in recent reform challenges. The authors expand both on the current increase in local political activity and on the external context of local schools to analyze the political momentum behind education standards. At the same time, the limits of both deregulation and centralized strategies are stressed as academic standards policies confront complex local politics. The most contemporary issues are treated: the 2008 election, politics of ch This site uses cookies to deliver our services, improve performance, for analytics, and (if not signed in) for advertising. By using LibraryThing you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. Your use of the site and services is subject to these policies and terms. Hide this. Results from Google Books. Over the last four decades, the world has witnessed the transition of political regimes from different forms of autocracy to various new types of political regimes. The current situation provides ground for disparate, and sometimes outright contradictory, diagnoses about the present state of democracy around the globe and its future development. Clear non-democracies like China show economic growth rates that are overwhelming both in size and duration and rulers in places like Russia and elsewhere have devised sophisticated measures to secure their power and order that turn their political sys