# Moving Forward in the Time of the Millennials



## ISACS 2019 Annual Conference November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Introductions

- Nick LeRoy
- Founder and principal consultant of Bright Minds Marketing
- School enrollment firm helping independent, charter and public schools increase their enrollment and retain their students

- Chris Everett
- Founder of The Kensington Group
- Creator of the ISACS School Community Survey
- School oriented market research firm that helps ISACS and independent schools uncover insights about their operations and opportunities



# Can we predict the future?

### Changes in our society

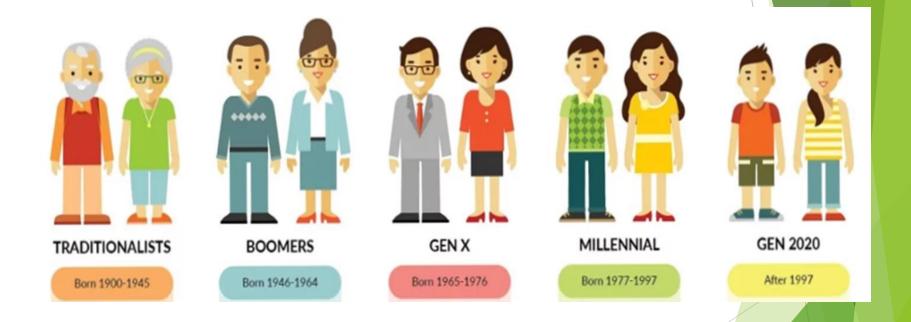


- Prior to 1940 only 28% women worked outside of the home
- Many jobs were off limits to women
- After the war 84% of women in manufacturing wanted to keep their jobs
- Laws banning women from certain jobs did not re-emerge
- Changed the way women thought of themselves

# Small changes can have a big impact and related implications



# We are in the midst of a major generational change





### The Baby Boomers

- Retain a youthful and individual mindset, don't want to be old
- Bought the product, trust the system
- More hands-off
- Grew up with print
- Not tech savvy, more often techchallenged (but changing quickly)
- About will 10,000 retire each day until 2030
- Two-thirds of school heads likely to retire by 2020
- General exodus of retiring faculty (and school culture)



### Generation X

- Strongly independent, self-reliant, individualistic
- Need constant confirmation that product/service is exceptional
- Lack automatic respect for authority
- Work to live
- Hands-on parenting
- Raised with TV, radio, cell phone, personal computer
- Email communication
- Directly felt the economic impact of 2008 recession
- ► 1986 Challenger disaster unifying eventopyright 2019



### The Millennials

- Most racially diverse generation (43% non-white)
- Highest level of education in US history
- Less attracted to political organizations, but support active government
- Less connected to religion / fewer believe in God
- 9/11 is significant unifying event
- Less often married
- Least likely to trust authority
- Career and financial life stunted by the 2008 recession



### Generation Z

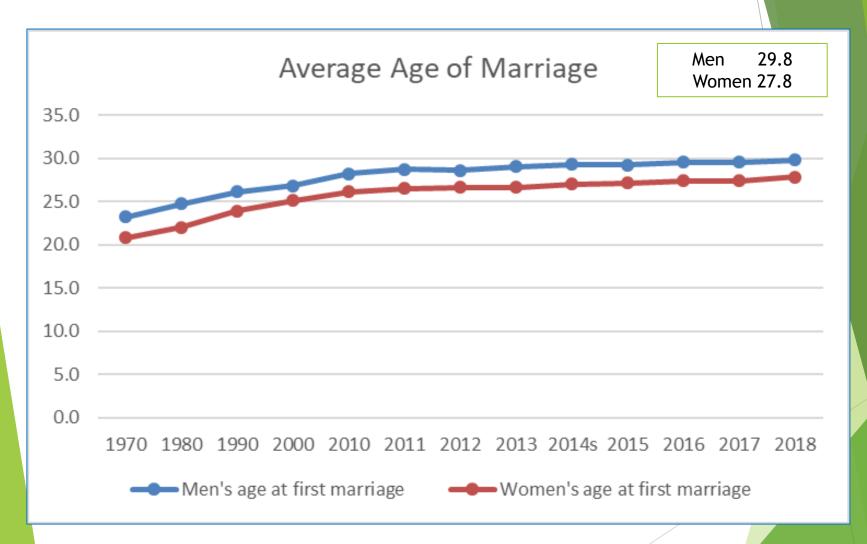
- Entrepreneurial, collaborative
- Social-change oriented
- Embrace diversity
- Learning on demand
- Tech-savvy, digital natives
- Prefer cool product over cool experience
- Amazon.com top website
- Snapchat top social media platform
- Prefer streaming video, not traditional TV

# Eight societal trends that are or will impact school

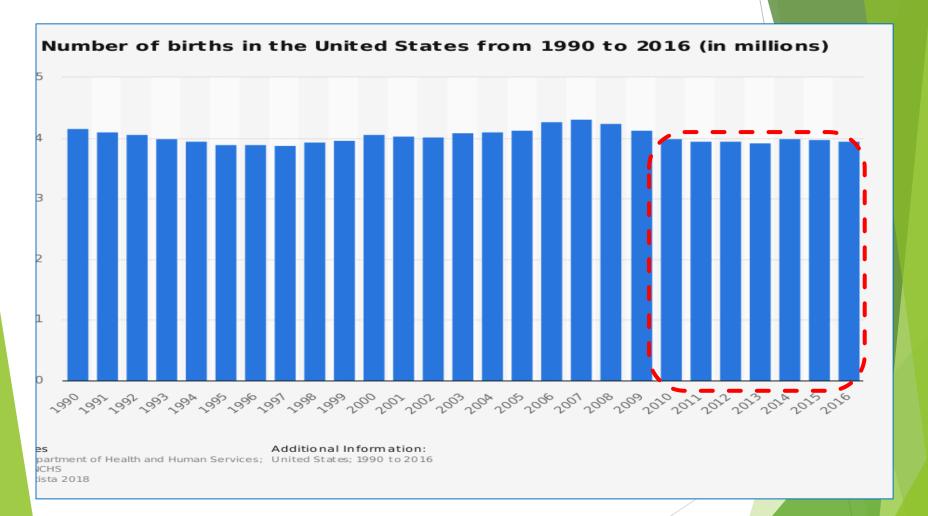
- 1. The changing structure of the family
- 2. Changes in family economics
- 3. Changes in family backgrounds
- Changes in parenting style and expectations regarding faith and values
- 5. Evolving communication preferences
- Changes in the work environment and structure
- 7. Changing parental desire and belief in what educational outcomes should be
- 8. Technological changes

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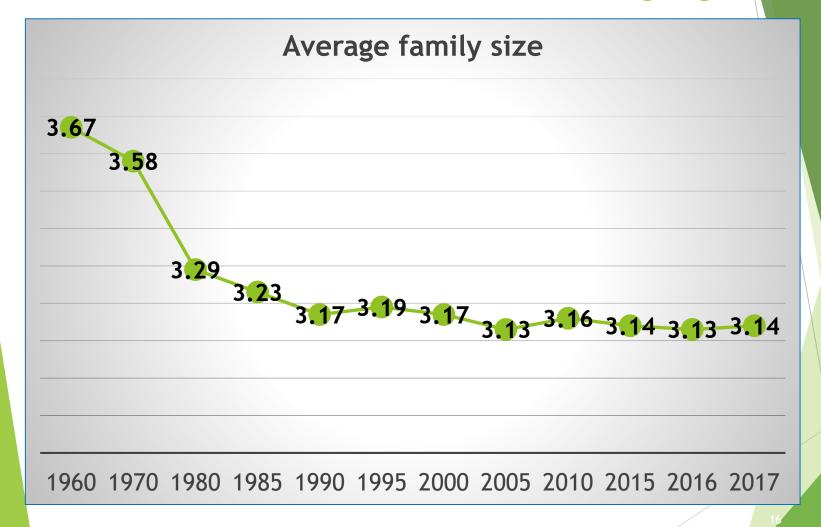
### The structure of families is changing



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Source: US Census Bureau

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# Implications & recommendations - Family Structure







#### Admissions team

Fewer students but more families

Must leverage additional resources to compete: Faculty, Students, Parents, Technology

#### **Administration**

Evaluate current faculty structure and right size

Acknowledge that for parents this might be their first (and only) child experience

#### **Parents**

Must be leveraged as a key marketing resource

Enhance valuefocused and
transparent
communications with
parents

### Changes in family economics







?

Existing student loan debt

Saving for their child's college

Retirement savings

Private school tuition

Student loan debt:

Boomer: \$36,246 GenX: \$39,802 Millenial: \$33,579 Average cost per year:

Instate public: \$21K / Private: \$47k

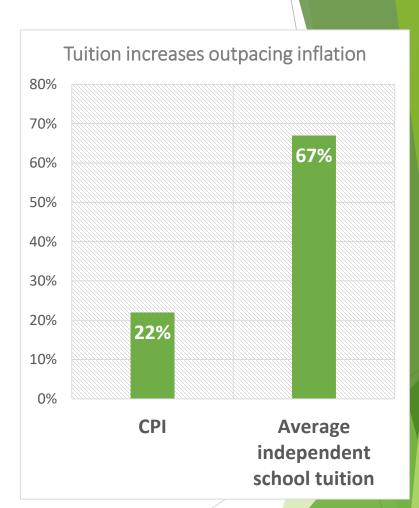
Avg. American has saved: \$18,000

Average
American has
\$104k in
retirement
savings

### Changes in family economics

# Do independent schools have a sustainable business model?

- 2006-2007: day school median tuition 34% of median income
- > 2015-2016: 43% of median income
- Public and charter schools providing competitive and <u>free</u> options

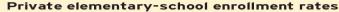


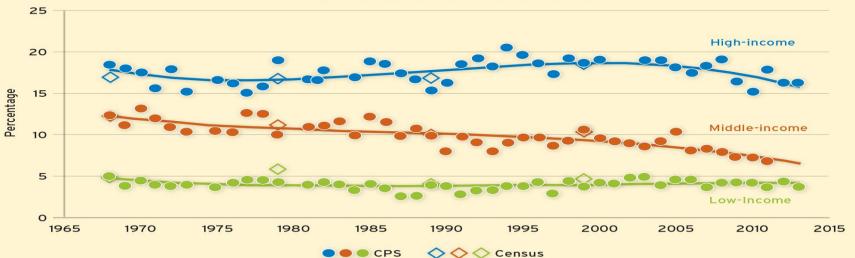
Past 10 Years

# Changes in family economics impacting enrollment

### Fewer Students from Middle-Income Families Enrolling in Private Schools (Figure 2)

From 1968 to 2013, the proportion of children from middle-income families enrolled in private elementary schools declined by almost half while the proportions of children from affluent and low-income families attending private schools held steady. Over this period, the gap in enrollment rates between high- and middle-income families widened from 5.5 to 9.3 percentage points.





NOTE: Low-, middle-, and high-income families are defined as those from the 10th, 50th, and 90th percentile of the national income distribution for families with children in grades 1 to 8, respectively.

SOURCE: U.S. Census and the Current Population Survey

# Implications & recommendations - Family economics





### Admissions team

Focus on demonstrating value

Evaluate your approach to the middle class

### **Administration**

Assess ways to operate more efficiently (ensure faculty participation in these exercises)

Build diverse revenue sources outside of tuition



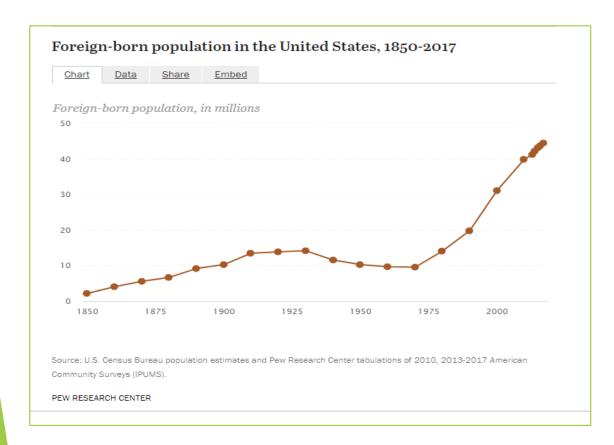
### **Faculty**

Participate in efforts to optimize cost structure of the school

Recognize that you are the product that parents are buying.

Reflect on your ability to create value in the minds of the parent

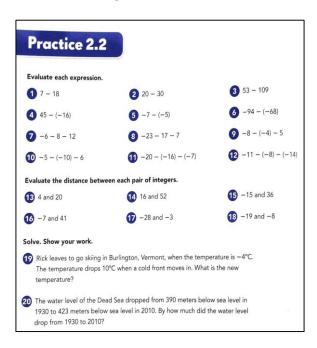
# Changes in family background



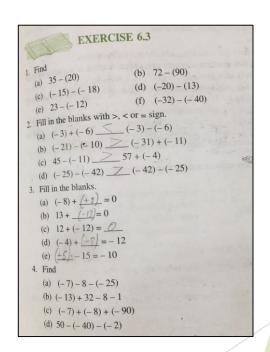
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% national origin	1960	2017
Europe / Canada	84%	13%
South and East Asia	4%	27%
Other Latin America	4%	25%
Mexico	6%	25%

# Changes in family background

### Conceptual Math



### Computational Math



# Implications & recommendations - family background







#### **Admissions**

Understand and track new parent's family background to address needs

#### **Administration**

Share new parent education and cultural background with faculty and discuss implications to ensure a welcoming environment

### **Faculty**

Review and understand the different cultural backgrounds within your student body. Ensure your approach reflects these

Explain your educational approach to all families

Clearly define
expectations to
parents to allow them
to be successful in
your system

Establish a plan to communicate to parents the expectations of the classroom

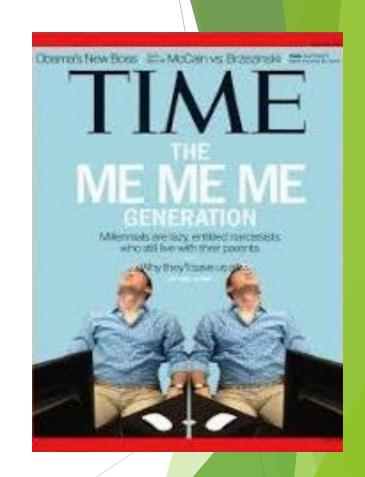
# Changes in family background

- The changing definition of diversity.
  - Race/ethnicity
  - Nationality/nation of origin
  - Economic & social status
  - Religious beliefs
  - Sexual orientation/gender identity
  - Age
  - Political leanings

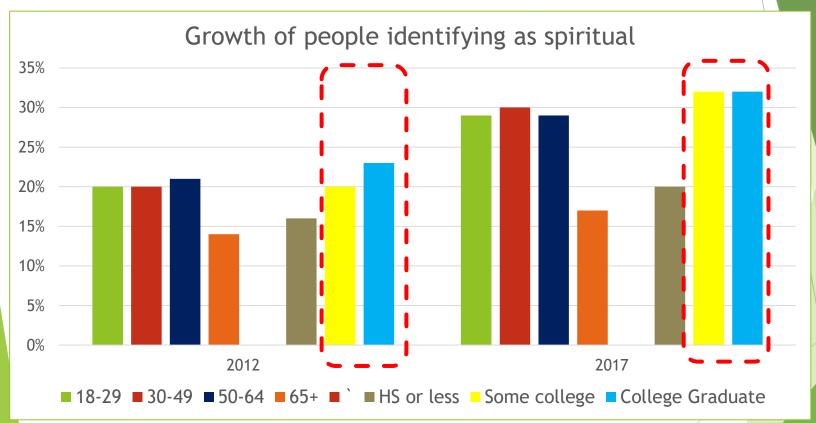


# Changes in parenting style and expectations regarding faith and value

- It is not about your school it is about their child
- Millennials crave authentic, unique experiences
- They are not bound by tradition or what their parents experienced or expected



## Changes in parenting styles/ expectations regarding faith/values (even for secular school)



Pew Research, 2018

# Implications and recommendations - faith and values







#### **Admissions**

#### **Administration**

**Faculty** 

Help parents experience or understand your values during the admissions process

Own and ensure that the culture of the school reflects the values you have established

Ensure that your interactions are reflective of the values

Review your messaging and values to ensure yours resonate with parents

Reinforce the values of your school to parents through communication

Incorporate your school's values into your lessons

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# Evolving communication preferences





# Implications and recommendations - communication



Recognize that parents want and expect a transparent school experience

Evaluate essential information, timing and communications mode to address classroom specific student and parent information needs



#### Administration

Establish expectations for all communications through creation of a road map for different types of communication

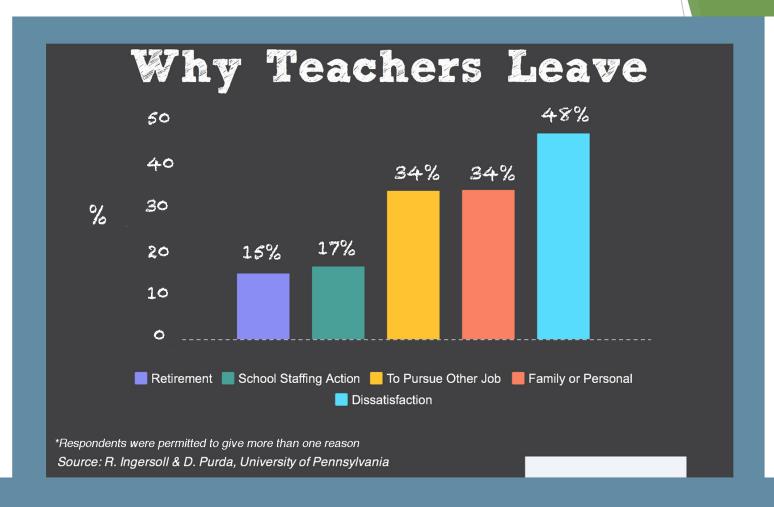
Standardize communication by faculty/staff/coaches to parents

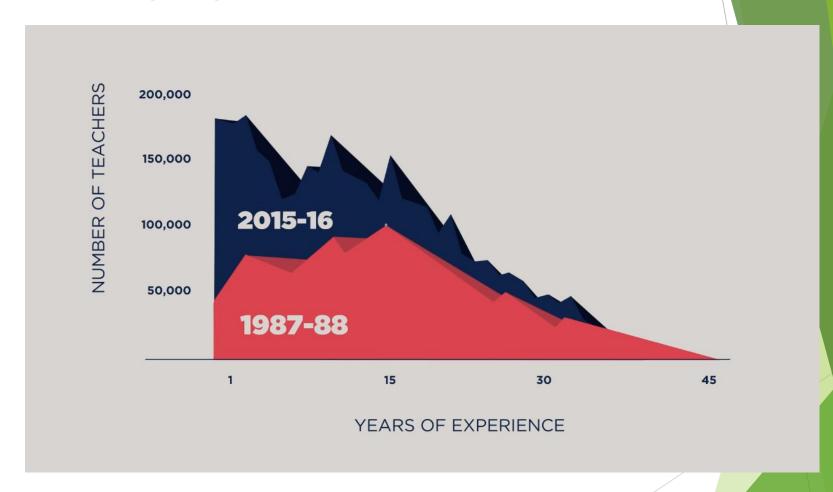
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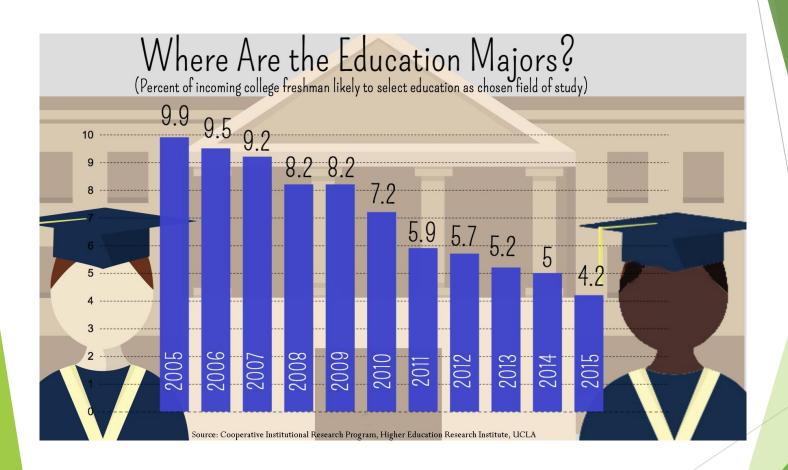
#### TOP STATES IMPACTED BY TEACHER SHORTAGES



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# Implications and recommendations - workforce



Ensure a positive and supportive work environment

Evaluate current teacher duties and roles based upon a changing workforce

Leverage senior and retired faculty in mentoring relationships

Recognize that millennial teachers need to be coached and managed differently



Formalize and ensure mentoring relationships

Peer review and coaching vs. administration review

Recognize that the traditional job of a teacher is going to evolve

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# Parental desire and belief in what educational outcomes should be







# Implications and recommendations - educational outcomes







#### **Admissions**

Understands and addresses parental goals

Gather
testimonials
from "the next
level up" to
reinforce
success

#### **Administration**

Create and communicate the educational road map for parents

Align course offerings with parent desired outcomes (college credit, experiences)

#### **Faculty**

Update and modernize your curriculum

Be prepared to justify your curriculum choices if they do not align with parent needs

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# **Technology**



### Implications for your school



#### **Admissions**

Stay abreast of new technology to assist you in your job

Leverage technology to reach more prospective parents



#### **Administration**

Invest in technology that helps the business operations, and overcomes deficiencies in time and talent

Educate parents on what you are doing with technology

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### **Faculty**

Create ways to educate students by integrating technology

# Your value proposition to parents must be clear and compelling

- You understand their needs, backgrounds and motivations
- You are helping to instill the values that they want their children to develop
- You are preparing their children for success in a 21<sup>st</sup> century world.
- The experience of attending your school is easy to navigate and there is a transparency into the activities behind the school door
- Your school can deliver that regardless of the challenging employee issues in today's economy

