

Recipient Details

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Responses

Curriculum and assessment

The Australian Curriculum should be the standard curriculum for all schools across the nation. State and regional amendments or biases corrupt the intention of the curriculum. Across all key areas there needs to be key learning which is non-negotiable and nonpolitical. The underlying core to learning needs to be based in facts and truth. Difficult.

Assessment at primary level has to be child centred. Over testing and over focussing on school ranking by state officials and media diminish the worth of the exercise. All tests are point in time and need to be reflected on as such. Developmental assessment focussed on personal student development at the micro level is more richly focussed individual improvement, the primary role of teaching.

Rating: 4

Teachers and teaching

Key to student learning is the student teacher relationship. Teachers need to understand the needs of the class and the culture of the community in which the learning is taking place.

Teacher training is important and needs to focus on micro teaching skills. Teaching is a combination of information giving, coaching, mentoring and personal training. Combined with broad curriculum and local anchors focussed teaching enables students to develop diverse skills, adaptive learning and social understanding.

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

School leaders need to see the community first, the student, parent and workforce communities and develop balance with often competing expectations. The value of leaders is often over estimated as many school leaders/principals are more correctly managers of enterprise. Without deep understanding of students and empathy school leaders miss the key link with students and engagement.

School leaders do not connect with all members of a community but they need to project a message of value; value of learning, value of knowledge, value of personal worth.

Developing connections with parents and caregivers to value education and treat education as an enrichment to students is key to improvements in the overall social standing of education.

Rating: 5

School and Community

Links are vital to ensuring the value of education. All communities suffer from stratification across the social spectrum and if a school is going to be successful in that community it needs to harness the actuators for change. Regardless of the social group there are key personalities and core groups that school need to have on side if the school is able to make the learning environment as rich as possible.

There's no one style leadership that will transplant into a community link but it is an organic process that develops trust and supportive attitudes in a two way street. School success is fluid and the support given to the professional body by the community is ephemeral.

Rating: 6

Information and Communication Technology

It is a vexed question as the jury is out on the overall benefit complex ICT integration and quality education, especially in primary schools. ICT is a key social driver but as a educative tool it is dependant on the teacher.

The recent push for coding is valuable but not at the expense basic teaching strategies. ICT is a great complement to classroom instruction but without technical support in the classroom it is problematic.

Rating: 5

Entrepreneurship and schools

I do not have a professional opinion on this question.

Rating: 0

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding
Within my current position I don't have a professional reflection on this question.

From a social justice position universal access to quality education is key to social development.

Rating for enrolments: 4

Rating for clusters: 0

Rating for distance education: 5

Rating for boarding: 4

Diversity

All student need an opportunity to succeed in education. Students who face any discrimination are at a greater risk of success.

Rating: 3

Transitioning beyond school

All student need to be earning or learning beyond school. It is important that jobs are valued at all levels and students who have less than tertiary academic levels need to be transitioned into real and valuable work that is paid well to encourage workplace participation. The dole needs needs to be devalued so that work in the best option post school.

Rating: 7

Additional Comments

Politicians need to get out of setting education agendas. Due to our oscillating political landscape the over influence of left, right and loonies has led to constantly changing education landscape.

Feminising the curriculum and the lack of factual rigour has caused the evolution the curriculum into pulsing blob of ideas with no clear direction.