

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Simson, Sophie

Reference Type: Teacher - School

State or territory: Vic

Serial Identification Number: 472951

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Yes, to a certain degree. You obviously need to assess your students and there needs to be a basic structure. But there is far too much put on curriculum and assessment and the basic foundations are not getting the time they need put into them. Children learn through play, exploring. Yet because there's such a pressure in the education system, this goes to the way side and a lot of students (majority) are falling through the cracks. The system is failing them.

Rating: 3

Teachers and teaching

As a teacher in a rural setting, I see it to have motivational, caring teachers to help with achievement. I have seen too many schools, stuck in 'ruts' as teachers have been there for too many years, don't put the children first, have on going positions, but don't put effort in to the school or the students. There is a lot of 'dead wood' in the teaching industry, and it seems that they stay in rural schools (not as much completion) until they want to retire. It's not fair on staff who are trying to improve schools/students and it's definitely not fair on the students.

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

Very. If you don't have strong leadership in a school, people can be very manipulative and these people are the ones who do not have the students/schools best interests at heart. Yet they get what they want and don't let the school move forward. There are too many principals waiting to retire, not running schools properly, but don't leave positions as a) there's no competition, no incentive for amazing principals to go rural, and b)no one else would employ them- so why would they leave their 'cushy' job?

Rating: 7

School and Community

You need a great school environment and supportive community. Learning takes place once children feel safe, supported and when they are given opportunities to explore in various ways.

Rating: 7

Information and Communication Technology

ICT is all around us, all the time now. However, in rural settings, the facilities are so poor, that it's near impossible to utilise ict to help children learn.

Rating: 7

Entrepreneurship and schools

Rating: 4

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Some towns don't have options, there is only one or two schools near by. You would need to take a lot in to consideration if you were to focus on enrolments.

Boarding should be an option to rural people, but with such high fees, often out of reach to many families.

Rating for enrolments: 3

Rating for clusters: 3

Rating for distance education: 3

Rating for boarding: 5

Diversity

Rating: 5

Transitioning beyond school

Rating: 6

Additional Comments