

GLOBALIZATION AND EDUCATION IN B.C.

Background and Issues for Focus Groups and Interviews with School Principals and Teachers (K – 12)

Background:

UBC's Centre for Policy Studies in Higher Education (CHET), in conjunction with the UBC School Leadership Centre and the BC Federation of Teachers, participates in an international study with the title "Globalization and Education in Fourteen Countries".

The UBC team will conduct the British Columbia portion of the study which will be exploring the role of globalization in education as experienced by educators, administrators, or other school personnel. Participation in the study is voluntary, thus uncompensated.

In the first phase, which started in Fall 2005, information is sought from teachers and school administrators from the K - 12 system. A second phase (starting in Spring 2006) will focus on post-secondary and adult education institutions.

A. Preliminary question:

What is 'globalization' and how do you think it affects (1) society in general and (2) education generally?

B. Possible effects of globalization on schools and teachers

1. privatization
 - promotion of private schools; enrolment trends
2. professionalization of teachers
 - harmonization of teacher certification in Cdn/Nafta
3. competition (1)
 - (regional, national, international) benchmarking, (standardized) testing
4. competition (2)
 - school choice (funding follows students); specific profile-building
5. funding
 - reduction of funding for public schools; funding for independent schools; fundraising,
6. commercialization
 - contracts with soft drink/snack firms, computer hard- or software producers, etc.
7. Management, control, planning
 - management 'fads' (models from private sector); accountability contracts; school growth plans; control of teachers through teacher evaluation
8. Curriculum changes
 - entrepreneurship education, work experience, career planning

9. learning resources

funding of ICTs vs. funding for school libraries; teaching resources provided by industry;

10. Technology

C. Possible effects of globalization on students

1. attitudes

adaptive, output/result orientated, un-critical learning; tolerant of other cultures and forms of knowledge

2. knowledge

instrumental (useful for finding a good job); process-oriented.

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