

Recipient Details

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Reference Type: Student - University

State or territory: WA

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Responses

Curriculum and assessment

It seems to have changed a lot since I was in Primary and Secondary school - whether for better or worse is up for debate. I think emphasis should be on the 7 general capabilities rather than the 3 'priorities'. There's more to the world than Asia.

Rating: 7

Teachers and teaching

Also agree keeping quality teachers in rural areas is important. I have only ever had one teacher leave halfway through a teaching year; and that was due to her wanting to be more rural.

May be worthwhile targeting retirees for the TFA scheme - I have worked with representatives to try and convince uni students to engage with TFA, but to my knowledge it didn't proceed further than interest.

Rating: 4

Leaders and leadership

Leadership is always important, but don't get caught up on everyone requiring leadership. Part of the learning process is that students push themselves to try for those leadership positions or take up a sport or interact within the community. It'll happen naturally.

Rating: 4

School and Community

Schools bring together people within the community who may not necessarily know each other outside of that community. Fetes and sporting events are important for building and maintaining those networks and friendships.

Rating: 7

Information and Communication Technology

I probably differ in view compared to the experts - I think it's a huge shame that iPads and computers are so integral to the curriculum from Kindergarten onwards. I was only exposed to school computers in Year 2; and it was only in Years 7 and 8 that we learnt to type effectively and to use Microsoft Office. Everything else was labour intensive and required thought.

Times change, as does the availability of technology, however I think that the skills should be taught once students understand the consequences of the technology (high school seems appropriate rather than straight away in Kindy!)

Rating: 3

Entrepreneurship and schools

I never really thought about it, but engaging in entrepreneurship through School Fetes was actually a really big learning task. I like the example called out about the shop in the middle of the school. This too brings out leadership and teaches the concept of work to students.

Rating: 5

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

I worry about the mental health of students who board - I know of too many stories where students have committed suicide or self harmed because they were homesick and the staff didn't comprehend the situation, or that their parents no longer showed care for the students/were suffering due to a bad crop yield.

Never really thought about school enrolments; clusters have merit (but require technology to implement).

Rating for enrolments: 4

Rating for clusters: 4

Rating for distance education: 7

Rating for boarding: 5

Diversity

We are entitled to an education, and it's unacceptable that we still don't have that parity.

Children have no concept of race until it's taught or it isn't explained that it's wrong to bully others.

Rating: 7

Transitioning beyond school

Rural students know more than city students how crucial everyone's jobs are to maintaining a society. This is an important topic - whether following a vocational/training path or continuing education, it's important students feel confident with their decision and have the skills necessary to help them follow through with the decision

Rating: 7

Additional Comments