Effective Learning Environments
This e-newsletter aims to keep you informed about the activities, publications, research and events linked to Effective Learning Environments and the GNEELE. Further information can be found on our website.
CALL FOR CASE STUDIES: The OECD Secretariat is collecting case studies designed to explore how schools around the world are transforming from traditional teaching-led learning environments supported by conventional school building design to innovative pedagogical approaches supported by responsive spatial environments.

Government officials, architects, school principals are invited to submit a case study. If you have a good example that you think is worth sharing -however small or large- please submit it using our online form. The form allows you to submit either a general summary or upload a more detailed case study, depending on your preference.
The Secretariat is drafting the 2020 Report on the Implementation of the Recommendation of the Council Concerning Guidelines on Earthquake Safety in Schools. The draft Report will be discussed in the 2019 GNEELE meeting before being approved via written procedure by the OECD Education Policy Committee and then submitted to the OECD Council in Q1 2020.

For the OECD Recommendation click [here](#)
For the 2015 Report click [here](#)
For the 2017 Brochure click [here](#)
New versions of the OECD School User Survey

THE OECD SCHOOL USER SURVEY IN EIGHT LANGUAGES:
Two new languages since June 2019: Korean and Russian

For English click here
For French click here
For Greek click here
For Italian click here
New versions of the OECD School User Survey

THE OECD SCHOOL USER SURVEY IN EIGHT LANGUAGES:

For Japanese click here
For Korean click here
For Russian click here
For Spanish click here
Events for officials

_GNEELE MEETING:_ The next meeting of the Group of National Experts on Effective Learning Environments will take place in Tokyo on **19-20 November 2018**. The meeting will be attended by the official representatives of the OECD member countries and observers. For information about the meeting, please contact the OECD Secretariat [email to EffectiveLearningEnvironments@OECD.org].

_EDPC MEETING:_ The 26th session of the Education Policy Committee [EDPC] meeting will take place in Paris on **19-20 November 2019**.
INTERN TO THE OECD EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS:
The OECD Effective Learning Environments project is looking for an intern for the first half of 2020. The intern must have a student status - as a Master’s degree candidate - throughout the whole duration of the internship. A number of different academic backgrounds are welcome, ranging from architecture, engineering and urban planning to education, finance and public policy.

If you are interested or you know someone who is interested please contact EffectiveLearningEnvironments@OECD.org
EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2019: OECD INDICATORS

Education at a Glance is the authoritative source for information on the state of education around the world. The 2019 edition includes a focus on tertiary education, as well as a dedicated chapter on Sustainable Development Goal 4.

Read and Share
Buy the print edition
WHY IT’S IMPORTANT TO KNOW YOUR CHILD’S FRIENDS AT SCHOOL (AND THEIR PARENTS)

Read the blogpost from Andreas Schleicher, where New analyses from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) show that in schools where parents know their children’s friends and their families, students do better in school, have more positive attitudes toward collaboration, and feel happier and safer at school.
EDUCATION POLICY OUTLOOK 2019: WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

The Education Policy Outlook 2019 covers 460 education policy developments. It analyses the evolution of key education priorities and key education policies in 43 education systems over the past 10 years. It compares more recent developments with various education policies adopted between 2008 and 2014.

Read and Share
The University of Melbourne iletc* project published the proceedings from all 3 Transitions 18 conferences, the international symposia for graduate and early career researchers in Australasia, Europe and North America. The volume contains full papers by many of the presenters and includes chapters by the keynotes Julia Atkins, Phil Idle and the iletc project teams data collection during the Copenhagen and Phoenix events.

Download the proceedings

*iletc = Innovative Learning Environments and Teacher Change
2ND EUROPEAN EDUCATION SUMMIT 2019: The European Commission for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport hosted the 2nd European Education Summit, in Brussels on 26 September. The second edition of the Summit entitled “Teachers first: excellence and prestige for the European Education Area” focused on the teaching profession. For more information click here.

TRANSITIONS 19: The University of Melbourne hosted “TRANSITIONS19” on 2-4 October in Melbourne, focusing on the interconnections between learning spaces, teaching practice and student learning. For more information click here.
49th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Educational Planning: The International Society of Educational Planning hosted their annual meeting on 15-18 October in Lisbon. For more information click [here](#).

LearningScapes 2019: The Association for Learning Environments [A4LE] hosted the “LearningScapes 2019” conference on 4-6 October in Anaheim, California, to discover how ‘Co-Creation’ runs through the planning, design, construction, teaching pedagogies and operations of our learning environments across the world. For more information click [here](#).
SUPPORTING KEY COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT: LEARNING APPROACHES AND ENVIRONMENTS IN SCHOOL EDUCATION: The European Commission will host this event in Brussels, on 12-13 November, with the participation of the OECD Secretariat. The conference will discuss different learning approaches and environments in school education that support key competences development. For more information click here.
ALFA OMEGA SCHOOL

Read the dezeen article about Alfa Omega School in Indonesia, which is shortlisted for the 2019 dezeen Awards. The school is split horizontally into three layers and raised 2.1 metres above the swamp on concrete stilts. The lightweight bamboo upper floor is topped with a zigzag thatched bamboo roof, influenced by Javanese architecture.

Images credit: Eric Dinardi
Read the presentation of Acton Academy East Bay, an independent school near San Francisco, which was started by two parents who decided to open their own dream school. In Acton Academy East Bay every child is a hero and the school teaches children to use their superpowers for good.
The shortlist for the 2019 RIBA Sterling Prize has been announced and no educational facility is included. In 2015, a new school had won the 2015 RIBA Sterling Prize, Burntwood School in Wandsworth, London.

Read the presentation of the school on RIBA’s website.
THE WORLD ACADEMY AT KING ABDULLAH ECONOMIC CITY

Read the education snapshot [article](#) about the innovative space of The World Academy at King Abdullah Economic City in Saudi Arabia.

Images credit: Paul Ott
Read the article about Natrona County High School, located in the historic site of Natrona County High School in Casper, Wyoming. Originally designed to house both Casper College and Natrona County High School, the Collegiate Gothic-inspired complex was constructed between 1924 and 1927 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The project included the renovation of the existing historic building and a new building.
**KINDER HIGH SCHOOL:** Read the [article](#) about Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, Texas.

**PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL’S LIBRARY TRANSFORMATION:** Read the School Planning & Management [article](#) about Palo Alto High School and how the staff envisioned a library that would feature updated technology, natural light, and a more functional, open layout with clear sightlines and improved circulation patterns.

**WALNUT GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** Read the School Planning & Management [article](#) about a new Indianapolis elementary school that includes state-of-art learning spaces as well as a huge indoor slide.
Read the article about The Heights public school in Virginia, where the architects arranged the classrooms in a fan-shape to allow for a "cascading terraces".

Image credit: Laurian Ghinitoiu
Read the article about Carver Elementary School in Massachusetts, which replaced two separate academic buildings. The design—which supports students’ individualised needs with flexible learning spaces—received the broad support of the community.

Images credit: Ed Wonsek
ADELAIDE BOTANIC HIGH SCHOOL

Read the article about the Botanic High School in Adelaide, set within the parklands and adjacent to the Botanic Garden, Zoo, universities and associated buildings. Botanic High is a STEM focused and contemporary school in a beautiful parkland setting, combining science and nature in a connected learning environment.

Botanic High has been conceived as a vertical high school with an ‘active’ atrium as the central community heart between the repurposed and new buildings.

Image credit: Sam Noonan
BRAEMAR COLLEGE MIDDLE SCHOOL: Read the article about the Braemar College Middle School in Australia, designed with respect for its natural surroundings.

Image credit: Emily Bartlett

JOPLIN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER: Read the article about the Joplin Early Childhood Center, part of a project to rebuild the city of Joplin. In May 2011, an F-5 tornado struck Joplin.

Image credit: Alistair Tutton
THE TIUNDA SCHOOL

Read the article about the Tiunda School in Uppsala, a space for traditional and emerging learning.
POWHATAN MIDDLE SCHOOL: Read the article about the innovative learning in Powhatan Middle School in Powhatan, Virginia.

PORTER-LEATH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER: Read the article about Porter-Leath Early Childhood Center, which provides a safe environment for disadvantaged community children of six weeks to five years.

PROTOTYPE K-5 SCHOOL: Read the article about Prototype K-5 School of Rockford Public Schools, a space that brought children into the design process, located in Rockford, Illinois.

GLASIR TÓRSHAVN COLLEGE: Read the article about Glasir Tórshavn College, located on the fjords of Faroe Islands.
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AS THIRD TEACHER? EVIDENCE ON THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE: Read the World Bank blog post about how school build environment becomes the second place where students spend the majority of their time, after home. It also becomes a “third teacher” if it is arranged to support learning.

INNOVATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS: THE ROLE OF ENERGY-EFFICIENT INVESTMENTS IN RUSSIAN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION FACILITIES: Read the World Bank paper presenting an example of an early childhood development facility intervention in the Khanty-Mansiysk region of the Russian Federation and its potential to produce efficiency gains in the region and the country overall.
HARNESSING THE POWER OF DATA SO NO CHILD IS LEFT BEHIND: Read the World Bank blog post about the database that brings together more than 400 publicly available household surveys for more than 100 low- and middle-income countries, aiming to identify and track inequalities for child-focused SDG indicators across health, nutrition, education and child protection.

LEVERAGING SOCIAL MEDIA TO DISSEMINATE STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENTS RESULTS IN PARAGUAY: Read the World Bank blog post about the network of WhatsApp’s groups used to communicate within and across school communities which is broadly used by both local education authorities and schools in Paraguay.
THE PROMISE AND THE CHALLENGES OF VIRTUAL SCHOOLS:

Read the World Bank blog post about the challenges many countries face and how virtual schools may be a solution. According to UNESCO, there are 262 Million children out of school, mostly in low and middle income countries. And of those who are in school, too many are not learning, according to the World Bank Global Development Report of 2018. There are many challenges, including a lack of schools, inability to go to school and not having enough trained teachers (and in some cases, having no teachers at all). A number of countries have sought answers to such questions through the development of ‘virtual schools’, where students learn all (or most) of the time online, outside of a physical school building.
A STUDENT-DRIVEN APPROACH TO EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: Watch the Edutopia video about how a Reggio Emilia–inspired school in Australia fosters students’ interests to spark curiosity and joy in learning.

STARTING SMALL HELPS KEEP INNOVATION MANAGEABLE: Read the Edutopia article about how low-key testing of different ideas can improve the end result, whether a school is planning a new curriculum or a new use of space.

CREATIVITY AND CRITICAL THINKING AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR SCHOOLS: Read the Nesta blog post about creativity and critical thinking. Creativity is one of the most critical skills for the future. Without creativity, there would be no innovation. However, there is mixed evidence on how to develop it and whether it is transferable.
THE NOISY CLASSROOM: Read the School Planning & Management article about how walls, ceilings and everything in between impact the way children hear. Poor classroom acoustics impact how a student understands speech, reads and spells, behaves in the classroom and concentrates in class.

SHINING A LIGHT ON SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM: Read the School Planning & Management article about the dimension that architects can directly influence -“Environmental Design”- which includes sound, light, temperature, and seating design. The article argues that a one-size-fits-all approach is no longer deemed successful for most students.
Read the Edutopia articles:

_ONE SCHOOL'S UNCOMPROMISING TAKE ON STUDENT CHOICE: Read the article about this Reggio Emilia-inspired elementary school, where children take the lead in structuring their schooling.

_CREATING A DEDICATED SPACE FOR REFLECTION: Read the article about how creating a quiet spot in schools, where students can calm themselves in times of stress, helps them develop self-regulation.

_10 COMMON FLEXIBLE SEATING MYTHS: Read the article about how a teacher who has been using flexible seating for over a decade responds to the concerns he hears most frequently from other teachers.
Read the School Planning & Management articles:

_BUILDING TRENDY K-12 SCHOOLS:_ Read the article that argues that school spaces are no longer designed to support one activity.

_SCHOOL DESIGN IMPACTS TEACHER HAPPINESS AND EFFECTIVENESS, NEW RESEARCH FINDS:_ Read the article about a new survey by Corgan -a global architecture and design firm- that takes a look at how school design impacts teacher happiness and effectiveness in the workplace.
Read the School Planning & Management articles:

**PERFORMANCE SPACE:** Read the article about performance venues in educational facilities which come in varying sizes, seating arrangements, flexibility, and functionality.

**HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF OUTDOOR SPACES:** Read the article about how to create outdoor spaces that are recreational, educational and engaging.

**CREATING ORGANIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DESIGN:** Read the article about how to create buildings as organic environments that interact with their human inhabitants.
Effective Learning Environments online

EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS WEBSITE:
www.oecd.org/education/effective-learning-environments/

Improving Learning Spaces Together
OECD SCHOOL USER SURVEY 2018

Protecting students and schools from earthquakes:
The seven OECD principles for school seismic safety

Learning Environments Evaluation Programme (LEEP)

click here

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Follow the links to view the files:

_OECD SCHOOL USER SURVEY: Improving Learning Spaces Together_ [English]
_OECD School User Survey infographic_
_The blogpost of Andreas Schleicher_
_Watch the launch event on 15 June 2018_
_LEEP FIELD TRIAL REPORT_
_LEEP INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT REPORT_
_LEEP FRAMEWORK_
_PROTECTING STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS FROM EARTHQUAKES: The seven OECD principles for school seismic safety_
How to use the OECD School User Survey

The OECD School User Survey is available online in a PDF format for free in 8 languages - English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish - and may be used by any interested actor. When using the Survey, the OECD recommends that:

- Full **recognition** be given to the OECD as the original author of the Survey, if applied independently.

- The Survey must be administered in its current format and layout. The OECD School User Survey has been designed as an **integrated tool** to collect information from all three user groups (students, teachers and school leaders). Therefore all three questionnaires should be used together, and with all of the questions rather than a selection. Please inform us if you do not intend to use the full Survey or would like to include additional questions.
How to use the OECD School User Survey_p.2

The OECD be informed when the Survey has been completed and results collected. In the next 12 months, we are looking to compile a selection of case studies from those who have used the Survey in order to highlight the effectiveness of the tool for schools.

Requests for the right to translate the Survey into other languages be sent to the OECD publications team rights@oecd.org who will provide a free license to translate the Survey, and will request an electronic version of the translation. Please keep our team on copy as well EffectiveLearningEnvironments@oecd.org
OECD School User Survey: Partnership opportunities

How can you get involved? The OECD is looking for partners!

- Take the test!
- Support efforts to translate the Survey into your national language.
- Actively help with dissemination and awareness-raising among relevant audiences (e.g. countries, school principals, teacher unions, local government authorities, universities).
- Provide feedback for the continuous improvement of the OECD School User Survey questionnaires.

Send your email to EffectiveLearningEnvironments@OECD.org
OECD Education online resources

OECD EDUCATION AND SKILLS NEWSLETTER: Read the latest issues online [July, September and October 2019] that deliver the key education findings and policy directions emerging from recent OECD analysis in a single accessible free source.

ACCESS TO OECD ONLINE PUBLICATIONS: GNEELE member countries benefit from free access to OECD publications in the online OECD database iLibrary [http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/].

GET FREE EDUCATION REPORTS AND STATISTICS:
- www.oecd.org/edu/workingpapers for a series of education working papers
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- www.oecd.org/education for a selection of free downloadable OECD reports and data
Support the project!

_GROW THE NETWORK!_ Please feel free to forward this e-mail and e-newsletter to interested colleagues.

_CONTRIBUTE:_ You are invited to suggest content for the e-newsletter to [EffectiveLearningEnvironments@OECD.org](mailto:EffectiveLearningEnvironments@OECD.org)
Stay in touch!

EMAIL: Send your email to EffectiveLearningEnvironments@OECD.org

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