

Ten Steps to Improve Equity in Education Pointers for policy development

WHY EQUITY IN EDUCATION MATTERS

- Education plays a key role in determining economic and social outcomes and the long-term social and financial costs of educational failure are high
- Equity in education involves both:
 - *Fairness*, ensuring that personal and social circumstances are not an obstacle to achieving educational potential
 - *Inclusion*, ensuring a basic minimum standard of education for all

STEPS TO IMPROVE DESIGN OF EDUCATION SYSTEMS

1. Limit early tracking and streaming and postpone academic selection
2. Manage school choice so as to contain the risks to equity
3. In upper secondary education, provide attractive alternatives, remove dead ends and prevent dropout
4. Offer second chances to gain from education

STEPS TO IMPROVE IN-SCHOOL AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL PRACTICES

5. Identify and provide systematic help to those who fall behind at school and reduce year repetition
6. Strengthen links between school and home to help disadvantaged parents help their children to learn
7. Respond to diversity and provide for the successful inclusion of migrants and minorities within mainstream education

STEPS TO IMPROVE RESOURCING

8. Provide strong education for all, giving priority to early childhood provision and basic schooling
9. Direct resources to students and regions with the greatest needs
10. Set concrete targets for more equity, particularly related to low school attainment and dropouts

FURTHER READING

These pointers for policy development are drawn for the Thematic Review of Equity in Education and the findings presented in *No More Failures: Ten Steps to Equity in Education*, published in 2007. Country background reports prepared by 10 countries, country reviews of 5 countries and other documents are on the OECD website www.oecd.org/edu/equity.