

System Level Policies for Migrant Education Pointers for policy development

MANAGE DIVERSITY AND CONCENTRATION OF MIGRANTS

- Prioritise the provision of quality education in schools with a diverse student population:
 - Provide easily accessible information so that all parents can make an informed school choice.
 - Support local initiatives to encourage native parents to consider the quality of educational provision at schools with mixed student population.
 - Encourage relevant authorities and schools to agree on targets for enrolment of immigrant students.
 - Recognise that early selection into different tracks or types of school without accompanying supports can lead to segregation and be an obstacle to integration.
- Establish immigrant students' rights to quality education, including effective language support and adequate information on school choice. Subsidise participation in early childhood education and care for children whose families have less capacity to develop language skills in the language of instruction.
- Support initiatives to share ideas, advice and know-how on migrant education among education professionals and local government officials:
 - Designate a “clearinghouse” for collecting and disseminating information on effective practices
 - Engage schools that are leaders in good practice to share their experience
 - Develop networks across schools.
- Embed strategies for improving immigrants' education outcomes in the mainstream strategy for raising education outcomes and set specific targets to reduce disparities in education outcomes of immigrant students, *e.g.* reducing the proportion of low achievers or the gap between native and migrant students.
- Encourage schools to critically evaluate the success of their own approaches to migrant education.

SUPPORT MIGRANT EDUCATION WITH APPROPRIATE FUNDING STRATEGIES

- Provide earmarked funding to address educational priorities for migrant education (*i.e.* level of education, support services, specific target groups) based on empirical research on education outcomes (access, participation and learning outcomes) of immigrant students.
- Develop a clear and transparent funding formula to ensure that schools easily understand eligibility criteria for extra funding and their responsibility in effectively spending the money.
- Combine direct funding to schools with indirect funding through local authorities, to both support school autonomy and actively engage local authorities to improve the education outcomes of immigrant students. Ensure local authorities' involvement with extra funding for migrant education.
- Balance universal and targeted measures in providing extra funding. Implement innovative approaches to help immigrant students without sacrificing overall equity of education that could include:
 - combining area-driven and student-driven funding approaches
 - developing proper funding formulae to accommodate multiple target groups
- Provide professional development opportunities and training to school leaders and teachers to help them use extra funding efficiently.
- Create systemic monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to hold schools accountable for their extra funding for immigrant students.

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- Evaluate the cost-effectiveness of additional funding schemes regularly and redesign funding schemes based on the results of the evaluation.

STRENGTHEN MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Improve the quality and coverage of data on the strengths and weaknesses of migrant education policies and practices, to better understand how performance of immigrant students could be strengthened.
- Evaluate progress towards reaching achievement targets, identify reasons for underperformance and develop possible remedies.
- Strengthen the role of the inspectorate and central government in overseeing the quality and equity of migrant education.
- Strengthen the capacity of schools to better assess the learning needs of immigrant children, evaluate their education performance, and feed such information back into improving migrant education.

FURTHER READING

These general pointers for policy development are drawn from the OECD Reviews of Migrant Education, which covered policy examples from 22 countries. The findings of this review are presented in *Closing the Gap for Immigrant Students: Policies, Practice and Performance*, published in April 2010. Policy reviews in 6 countries (Austria, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden), background reports prepared by 12 countries and other documents of the review are also available on the OECD website www.oecd.org/edu/migration.