

5. Education should broaden cultural understanding and global awareness;
6. Education should expose students to a wide diversity of points of views and options;
7. While education should prepare students to fill jobs needed in society, it should also facilitate personal self-development;
8. Education, work and society must not be mutually exclusive. Education should be closely linked with work by placing the student and education institutions at the service of society;
9. Education should play a key role in diminishing social disparities; for this reason all students, regardless of economic, cultural and ethnic background must have access to the same quality of education. The current trend of tying access to ability to pay or corporate sponsorship must be reversed.

Comments on IDEA documents

1. The "Democratic Education" document should include a proposal for facilitating access to a variety of types of education and flexibility in methods of delivery that allow for the special learning needs and living conditions of different people and social and cultural groups;
2. The structure of education and its delivery systems need to be flexible enough to reflect the differing needs and social contexts of communities;
3. Education must be integral and allow for the full development of children, youth and adults (i.e. Lifelong education);
4. Popular versions of the "Effects of 15 years of Neoliberal Changes to Education in the Americas," "Alternatives for Democratic Education in the Americas" and "Inter-American Program for Education" should be developed and circulated so that broader sectors may understand and provide input on these issues.

Corporate Influence in Schools - BC Central America Student Alliance:

A growing influence of Private Corporations in public education is manifest in the following ways:

- Exclusive marketing contracts with schools, colleges and universities;
- Corporate advertising on school materials and textbooks;
- The exchange of services and equipment in exchange for mandatory exposure of students to advertising (e.g. the Youth News Network provides schools with classroom television, but students are required to watch programs and commercials provided by the network);
- Public-Private partnerships in services, curricula and school construction;
- Contracting out of post-secondary education programs;
- Sponsorship of university chairs and study programs;