

Education Conversation - Korero Mātauranga (Submitted: 2018-05-22)

From COMET Auckland stakeholder consultation, 7th May 2018

Q1. If you were the boss of education in New Zealand, what would you do first?

Funding/Resources

Appropriate funding to ensure there is enough resources for all. Ensuring quality resources, provisions, teachers, learning resources, schools at all levels from ECE on and equity of resources. Resourcing: buildings, staff (quality and quantity at all levels).

Look into funding, baseline; child vs location

Improvement of funding through decile system

Review of zoning system. Strengthen local schools so they are the schools of choice

Increase quality in public local schools, better resource allocation to the areas in need. Remove government subsidies on private schools.

Resource schools to look into the children coming > recruitment.

Resources for schools to engage with the community

Resource ACE again for lifelong learning, include mid-career

Rethink access to funding to support further education

Make the connections between poverty and education more visible

Poverty is holding us back

Lunches/food provided by schools

Give all students free travel card (feeds into local infrastructure needs/expectations) - Financial assistance

Teachers

Teacher training and support. Pay increase/ Lift teachers' pay by at least 25%.

Bring back Te Kotahitanga.

Training & support for teachers to build on children's culture. More community development principles in teacher training.

Increase diversity among teachers (ethnicity, gender, sexuality, languages, skills).

Equal value placed on ECE teachers including pay & conditions > employed as teachers in schools are. Induction for overseas teachers.

Schools/ECE centres

Quality of delivery in terms of ratios, group sizes. Improvements in: ratios, group sizes, consistency of staffing, recognition of prof. status of staff - ECE staffing.

More accountability for teachers, principals, boards (but not just student testing)

Review of the "history" being taught in schools

Schools can't fix everything

Parents are partners of the schools

Provide more information to all on:

Future of the working world. Pathways - Support a pathway so everyone on the same level/page.

Access to data/online/connectivity

Higher degree apprenticeships - focus on "employability" at tertiary, apprentice versus interns

More holistic approach to education

Human, Whanau centric. Student wellbeing normalised. Holistic health, not just academic, life skills & values-focused education. Examine dominant culture to see how to make all learners successful.

Support bilingual education, special needs education

Q2. What does a successful student of the future look like to you?

Strong and confident in who they are – their culture, identity, values, connections, relationships. Is nurtured. Respects others and is able to walk in other peoples' shoes.

Is an emotionally intelligent problem solver, critical thinker, agile in thinking and learning. Has a growth mind-set. Steadfast, adaptable, backs themselves. Resilient, optimistic. Healthy physically and mentally.

A global citizen, environmentally focused. Digitally competent.

Feels comfortable in multicultural society. Culturally competent. Multilingual.

A confident talker and communicator. A fearless challenger, agent of change.

A life-long learner who knows their skills, has their own learning goals and directions.

Q3. What will they need to know and be able to do?

To know multiple languages and literacies: many genres and ways to communicate. Cross-cultural knowledge.

Digital literacy.

Understand their role in the world, be environmentally literate.

Know different ways of learning. Flexible skills - soft skills.

To be proficient in literacy and numeracy.

Have a fundamental, basic skill set, i.e. research and understanding of methodology, trial and error.

Be able to transfer learning to new environments & contexts.

Communicate with content/depth not just skills breadth.

To experience and learn from failures. Be confident enough to ask for help.

Know how to be healthy and what good food is and to be able to grow their own.

Q4. What things need to be in place to make sure every learner is successful?

Make schools an exciting, safe and supportive place so they start and remain on their education journey. Happy teachers who feel good in their roles. High calibre of teaching - strong facilitation, engaging, future focused, up to-date training.

The acceptance of self-definitions of success. Learners need to feel they have a say in defining/redefining success throughout their lives.

Different avenues and entry points to engage with learning/education.

Access (support & resources) - An inclusive system. An inclusive approach-interested in every learner journey equally. Individual contexts for learning, employment, contribution to society

Start early on learning resilience, positive attitudes, social skills. Experience. Have walked in other peoples' shoes.

Parent support. Create a community that wraps around the individual student to support their success. Families as "partners in learning". Intergenerational, reciprocal support. Personal connections with good role models. Personal relationships that transcend.

Conversations about aspirations that start early. Opportunities. Given opportunities to explore skills, interests and potential career/future pathways. Flexible pathways.

Joy.