The Impact of Globalization on K-12 Education

A look into a cloudy crystal ball

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How do you define Globalization?

Take a minute to write your definition and then share it with your partner to see if there are any common elements.
Globalization

- Is it the integration of economic, political, educational, and cultural systems across the globe?
- Or is it Americanization and United States dominance of world affairs?
- Is *globalization* a force for economic growth, prosperity, and democratic freedom?
- Or is it a force for environmental devastation, exploitation of the developing world, and suppression of human rights?
Globalization Defined

- The diffusion of ideas, practices and technologies in a seamless way throughout the world
- The intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away (Giddens, 1990)
Pressures for Change

- Workforce preparation is now an expectation of education at all levels
- Everyone expects practical competence
- Education confers global competitiveness
- Consumers now live in the Age of Convenience
- Adolescence has been extended
- Continuous training is now the norm
Driving Forces of Change

- Technology
- State and National Control
- Accountability
- Competition
Impact on K-12 Education

- Increase in competition (locally, regionally, and internationally)
- Focus on results with comparison made to international community
- Narrowing of curriculum to Math, Science, Technology and Literacy
- Skills Gap
- Ambition Gap
How do we normally respond to forces of change in education?
Horse Story

Common advice from knowledgeable horse trainers includes the adage, "When the horse dies, dismount."

Seems simple enough. Yet in the education business we don’t always follow that advice. Instead we often choose from an array of alternatives which include:
- Buying a stronger whip
- Trying a new bit or bridle
- Switching riders
- Moving the horse to a new location
- Riding the horse for longer periods of time
- Saying things like, “This is the way we’ve always ridden the horse.”
- Appointing a committee to study the horse
- Arranging to visit other sites where they ride dead horses more efficiently
Increasing the standards for riding a dead horse
Creating a test for measuring our riding ability
Comparing how we’re riding now with how we rode ten or twenty years ago
Complaining about the state of horses these days
Coming up with new styles of riding
Blaming the horses parents - the problem is often in the breeding
Tightening the cinch
Where are we going

- Increased emphasis on regulations
- Total focus on minimum competencies
- Reducing the scope of curriculum by focusing on passing the test
- Making the existing system more efficient and effective
Where SHOULD we be going

- Develop a skills based curriculum with an emphasis on problem-based learning, creativity and global citizenship
- Focus on continuous life-long learning (allow for reentry move to K-14)
- Enhance the use of technology as a tool for learning
Where SHOULD we be going

- Develop a more integrative approach to learning with an emphasis on relevance and application (e.g., Science Technology and Society; Entrepreneurship);
- The virtual faculty
- Reduce regulations and provide meaningful options for students (charter schools; summer and academic year institutes, etc.)
Proposed Curriculum
Core Subjects

- Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- World Language
- Arts
- History
- Geography
- Economics
21st Century Content

- Global awareness
- Financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy
- Civic literacy
- Health and wellness awareness
Learning and Thinking Skills

- Critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Communication skills
- Creativity and innovation skills
- Information and media literacy skills
- Collaboration skills
- Contextual learning skills
Life Skills

- Leadership
- Ethics
- Accountability
- Adaptability
- Personal productivity
- Personal responsibility
- Social responsibility
- Interpersonal skills
Resources

- Yale Center for the Study of Globalization [www.yaleglobal.yale.edu](http://www.yaleglobal.yale.edu)
- KnowledgeWorks Foundation [www.kwfdn.org](http://www.kwfdn.org)
- Partnership for 21st Century Skills [www.21stcenturyskills.org](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org)