



Hot Topics In Independent Education March 2009

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Protecting Independent School Benefits

1. Heritage Fund French Grants
 - partial success
 - what still needs to be done – what OFIS is doing
 - how much money are we talking here?
2. NOI (Notice Of Intention To Operate)
 - changes to the form
 - what's happened to ECE's and Private Career Colleges
 - what OFIS is doing

Independent School Issues

1. EQAO Testing & Reporting
 - ministry website
2. Special Health Funding
 - how much is in the pot?
 - re-structuring of CCAC's and LIHN's – applying

OFIS Potential Partners

- C.E.S.I. – readiness for evaluation
- CVV Insurance Brokers – Group Health Insurance (establish independent school group)
- “Our Kids” Media – package prices for schools
- ACSD – professional development opportunities – folks with more resources
- RenWeb – database management – communication & community

*searching for the “right” consultants – HR, Governance, Financial Wellness, Marketing, Legal & Policy Development

Policy Ideas To Suggest To Government

What Doesn't Work – Election 2007

What Might Work

- set clear provincial goals (must be seen to benefit province-wide)
- devise measurable tests to be sure those goals are being met
- encourage autonomy and diversity in meeting those goals and making those measurements

Considerations

- fundamental goal is equity
- kids can't be allowed to fall behind (nor socially promoted)
- acknowledge that great teachers are the bedrock of great education
- prepare for life

1. Value Added Assessment - http://www.cgp.upenn.edu/ope_value.html#2

- measures teaching and learning
- measures achievement (absolute levels achieved) and growth (progress)
- being used in the US since 1992 – 21 states

2. Curriculum-Based External Exit Exams

- BC & Alberta
- produces signals of student accomplishment that have real consequences for students (different than EQAO, CTBS,)
- defines achievement to an external standard (reduces penalties caused by cultural, racial, or language background issues) – covers almost all secondary school students
- organized by discipline and subject area
- signals multiple levels of achievement in a subject – not simply pass/fail – many nations choose (a single exam taken by all is not essential, choose which subjects to be examined it, high and intermediate levels in same subject)

3. Program – Ontario Scholarship For Special Needs Children

- there is a shortage of resources and a backlog – always
- leave room to broaden the definition of special needs (learning, emotional, cultural, religious)
- cheaper (more value & less expensive) for government to use vouchers/funds to send special needs children to properly equipped private schools than to send them to public schools (\$30,000 in Ontario)