

Solving the global learning crisis through systemic change.

A new project is helping inform education decision-makers on how they can support policies and engage in practices that transform teaching and learning outcomes at scale.

This Project is enabled through the BHP Billiton Foundation's Education Equity Global Signature Program.



Innovations around the world are making an enormous difference in children's learning. However, these are not translating to the systemic change needed to solve the global learning crisis.

While there is growing evidence around which educational strategies improve children's learning, we know much less about how to translate this into improved policies and practices at scale.

The ultimate goal is to improve learning opportunities so that all children and youth learn the skills they need to live healthy, productive lives.

An urgent global learning crisis

During the past decade, substantial progress has been made in increasing access to schooling for children and youth around the world. However, while access to education has improved, learning has not kept pace.

There is a global learning crisis. If current trends continue, 800 million children—roughly half of the youth generation—will reach adulthood without basic secondary-level skills. In low-income countries, nine out of every 10 children are projected to reach adulthood without the skills they need to thrive.

With employers already struggling to hire workers with the skills they need, researchers have concluded that education systems are not creating sufficient opportunities for children and youth to develop the competencies needed in a rapidly-changing world. Most worryingly, these obstacles to learning disproportionately affect the poorest and hardest to reach, from marginalized girls to children living in remote communities.

The Center for Universal Education (CUE) at Brookings is embarking on a project to transform education by identifying effective education innovations, analyzing and using data, and providing guidance to adapt and scale effective approaches. This will help decision-makers improve educational opportunities and outcomes for millions of young people.

Transforming education



To transform education at a systemic level, the project will focus on three ambitious work streams.

1. **Identify effective innovation.** There is an urgent need to identify innovative approaches in transforming teaching and learning and the enabling conditions that allow them to take root and spread. This will allow educational challenges to be addressed more quickly than at the current rate of change.
2. **Analyze and use data.** Developing effective long-term education strategies that advance equity and ensure accountability requires evidence and data. The project will inform decision-makers about tools and processes to collect and utilize school-level data on learning, financing, and quality. This will better inform critical educational decisions and ensure strategies are effective, efficient, and focused on improving learning outcomes.
3. **Scale effective approaches.** While there is greater experimentation and evidence around what works to encourage more children into school and learning, much less is known about how to rapidly scale quality learning opportunities. Through this project, decision-makers will have access to actionable evidence, systemic data, and practical guidance on how to scale effective practices that will transform education.

At the conclusion of the project, decision-makers will have access to a set of robust evidence and practical tools that will help guide teaching and learning, scale quality education initiatives, and improve opportunities for children and youth around the world.

Driving change through investment, engagement and advocacy

BHP Billiton Foundation's Education Equity Global Signature Program was developed to catalyze systemic change, with a focus on improving outcomes for young people. We do this by driving changes in education systems, through investment, engagement and advocacy.

Projects supported by the BHP Billiton Foundation complement and enhance existing education initiatives, and are underpinned by two overarching principles designed to deliver maximum reach and impact:

- **Inclusion:** improving access to quality education for the most disadvantaged young people
- **Innovation:** using the transformative power of evidence-based innovation to disrupt current trends driving disparity of education outcomes.

All children deserve services that support their development; education systems which meet their diverse needs; advocates who challenge the injustices they face; and access to the tools they need to navigate and lead the world they'll inherit.

For more information on the BHP Billiton Foundation and the Education Equity Global Signature Program, visit bhp.com/foundation.

'All of us working in education need to set our sights on the type of experience we want children entering the first grade in the year 2030 to have. Then we need to work backwards to make sure decision-makers in education have the tools they need today to get there.'

Rebecca Winthrop
Senior Fellow and Director of CUE