

Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices

Policy Briefs Proposal

Objectives:

This proposal is for the development of a series of *Policy Briefs*, as part of the information exchange component of the Inter- American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The objective of the policy briefs is to offer key research findings and policy options in citizenship education in a language and style that is useful for policy-makers, educational leaders, interest groups, lobbyists, community leaders and advocates, engaged in developing, implementing, or evaluating citizenship education policies. The key issues presented will attend to regional priorities, which may have been identified by the Program's Advisory Board.

The briefs will be published on-line three times a year by the OAS in collaboration with strategic partners (with the possibility for limited printed copies).

Proposed Activities:

The bilingual (Spanish – English) policy briefs will be published on-line (with limited printed copies) three times a year (launched 2007, publication cycle established in 2008) by the OAS in collaboration with strategic partners, which may vary per issue.

The policy briefs will provide a 4 page, digestible, research-based analysis of key issues in the region. It will call attention to important policies/research findings, quality practice examples, in the hemisphere, and gaps that need to be addressed with a focus on key policy options for nations to consider, adopt and/or adapt as they advance in the field.

The contents of the brief will always include a balance of information from the Caribbean, Central America, North America, and South America.

It may have the following sections (which may vary per edition):

- Index
 - The Bottom Line (one paragraph summary of the brief, raising key points, this is the “take-home message”).
 - A section developing and sustaining this bottom line and key questions and conclusions based on research results, with changeable sub-sections, such as the following:
 - Hemispheric Commitments (legal/political framework)
 - The current state of the issue (per sub-region)
 - Lessons learned (theory-practice)
 - Testimonies (powerful stories)
 - Conclusions, perhaps in the form of Policy Options (an expanded bottom line, in bullets-form).
 - Tentative section: Key Partners (if useful for the issue) (five to ten key organizations in the region working on that topic who have given us permission to publish their names and contact
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information).

- Tentative section: Funding Sources (if useful for the issue) (five to ten key organizations (public, private, non-profit, NGO's) in the region who have funded this work in the past who have given us permission to publish their names and contact information).
- Further Reading section listing approx. five key references on the central topic, easy to access throughout the region.
- Reference Section, listing the studies consulted to produce the brief.
- Feedback Section
- Credits and Acknowledgements
- A line or two defining a policy brief (in a box)
- A line or two describing the Inter-American Program and the OAS with links to find more information on each (in a box)
- Perhaps a line or two defining the broad, inclusive approach of the Inter-American Program (defining democratic values and practices) (in a box)

In the future, funding will be considered to translate the briefs into French and Portuguese.

Note: the policy brief will include a link to “*guidelines for understanding and using the policy briefs*”. This will be a separate, short document, posted on the Program’s website in our policy briefs section (to be created). It will include answers to what is a policy brief and ideas for using a policy brief in different settings.

Publication Timeline:

Start Date:

1. Estimated date of launching **October, 2007**

Suggestions for the first issue topic (more specific topic within this broader topic, to be defined... as we would like to focus on a specific issue if possible): “***Early Childhood Democratic Citizenship Education: Lessons Learned and Hemispheric Commitments.***” (In line with the main topic of the V Ministers of Education Meeting Nov.14 – 16, 2007, in Cartagena, Colombia. Issue to be distributed at the meeting).

Subsequent issues:

Edition 2: January, 2008

Suggested key issue: *we welcome suggestions for this topic from the Advisory Board.*

Edition 3: April, 2008 (in time for the Evaluation Seminar in Spring, 2008)

Suggested key issue: “**Evaluating the Impact of Citizenship Education Policy: Alternatives and Challenges**”

* Estimated publication cycle 2008: Edition 4: August, 2008, Edition 5: December, 2008

Expected Outcomes:

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- 1) Advance on the concise and simple dissemination of research-based knowledge about education for democracy and related areas in key issues for the region.
 - 2) Provide policy options, based on this research, which are useful to policy-makers, advocates, and other educational leaders in the hemisphere.
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