

Third Global Meeting: School Leadership Network

18th October, 3:00 pm Paris time | 10:00 am Argentina time | 6:30 pm IST Time

Registration link: <https://schoolleadershipne.wixsite.com/website>

To see the Spanish version click here: <https://lc.cx/My-1Hw>

The School Leadership Network is part of the Teacher Task Force Thematic Groups led by Varkey and Global School Leaders. In 2023, the Network is organizing three Global Meetings in partnership with the Global Education Monitor (GEM) Report team, providing a valuable opportunity to contribute with ideas and experiences as input to the next Report. Published annually by UNESCO, this report is a vital resource for decision-makers seeking comparative research and knowledge to inform actions towards inclusive and equitable quality education at national, regional, and global levels. In 2024 the **report will specifically focus on the crucial topic of school leadership to provide inputs to the Global Report on Teachers** to be published in January 2024 by the Teacher Task Force and UNESCO.

On 18 October, the School Leadership Network, UNESCO GEM Report, and the Teacher Task Force will convene the third global meeting. This gathering will unite school leaders, NGOs, academia, policymakers, and various stakeholders with a shared goal: to engage in a meaningful discussion about the vital role of leadership in the connection between schools and their communities. Specifically, the focus will be on the importance of establishing a common vision among team members, fostering community development (involving parents and local communities), and encouraging active participation from students. Within these three sub-themes, the primary objective is to delve into how school principals can proactively exercise effective leadership by not only defining a clear vision but also by harnessing support and collaboration from the broader community.

These sub-themes will be addressed in simultaneous breakout rooms, offering participants the opportunity to choose the room that aligns with their interests and expertise. In these breakout sessions, we invite participants to share perspectives, challenges, and ideas for improvement based on their knowledge in their unique educational contexts. Similar to the second global meeting on September 16th, some questions will be provided per theme to encourage participants to prepare their insights to foster discussion and participation.

Topic #3: School leadership communities

School leaders cannot lead schools alone, especially when the responsibilities are large. While they may have the most responsibility and opportunities to exercise leadership, and the biggest expectations are placed on them, other stakeholders in schools must also provide leadership and there is therefore interest in how leadership is distributed.

In this context, it is evident that within the school environment, there exist various key players, including teachers and middle leaders, school management committees or boards, and student leaders. However, the true challenge lies in fostering a collaborative spirit among these entities and devising effective leadership strategies that actively engage the community in addressing challenges as a unified team.

Common vision among school team:

Establishing a common vision is crucial for ensuring a cohesive and effective educational environment. It empowers educators to work towards common goals, driving improved student outcomes and overall school success. However, challenges such as differing opinions, resistance to change, and communication gaps may hinder this process. To address these issues, school leaders should actively engage their teams in the vision-building process, encourage open dialogue, and provide professional development opportunities that align with the shared vision.

- Can you provide examples of successful school leaders who have established and sustained a common vision?
- How do school leaders navigate potential conflicts in implementing a common vision?

Community development (involving parents and local communities):

Community involvement, including parents and local communities, is essential for schools as it enhances student success and overall educational quality. When parents and communities actively engage, students benefit from additional support, resources, and diverse perspectives. Yet, challenges such as time constraints, limited autonomy and authority, unclear roles, and communication gaps can impede involvement. To address this, schools can organize regular meetings, workshops, and outreach programmes to encourage participation and accommodate busy schedules. Building strong relationships and clear communication channels between schools and communities can enhance trust and collaboration.

- What are the challenges and benefits of involving parents, businesses, and community organizations in school development?
- How can school leaders engage with the local community to enhance educational opportunities and support for students?
- What policies have been effective in promoting community partnerships and collaboration with schools?

- How can school leaders address issues of equity and inclusion within their community engagement efforts?

Students participation:

Student participation in school leadership is crucial as it promotes a sense of ownership, responsibility, and empowerment among students. When students have a say in decision-making, it fosters a more inclusive and student-centered learning environment. However, challenges such as lack of opportunities for engagement can hinder student participation. Solutions include creating student councils, advisory groups, and feedback mechanisms to actively involve students in school policies and activities. By valuing and incorporating student voices, schools can cultivate responsible and engaged citizens while improving the overall school experience.

- How do student consultations impact education?
- How do student governance bodies contribute to school development and student engagement?
- What strategies or initiatives can schools or education systems implement to increase student representation in decision-making processes and enhance student engagement?

Modality

The meeting will be conducted on Zoom with interpretation in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Bahasa Indonesia. It will be 90 minutes long with an open plenary and breakout session. Please register through our [website](#).

To think about: How do we experience each of these aspects in our schools and contexts?

