

Education Systems Defined

Strengthening education systems is at the center of *Learning for All*. Rather than simply counting the number of schools built or children enrolled, the Bank focuses on the education system as a whole to make sure children can go to school and learn.

The human body tells us a lot about the importance of a systems approach to education reform. Just as the human body cannot thrive without its component parts, from the skeletal and cardiovascular systems to the nervous and digestive systems, functioning together, education systems cannot thrive without the alignment and collaborative efforts of its policy areas.

An education system needs trained teachers who are innovative and effective, are paid adequately and on time, and receive performance evaluations; adequate resources that fund salaries and textbooks that reach the classroom and enhance teaching; learning assessments with results that inform policymakers, teachers, parents and students; an education management information system that monitors schools and forms the basis for the deployment of teachers and allocation of resources, and so on. These components make up the critical plumbing of the education system and it is only when they are connected that the education system can meet its challenges and achieve all its goals.

