Mc Graw Hill

Education for All: A Practical Guide

A Framework to Address All Learners' Needs

What is Education for All?

Education for All (EFA) is the idea that it is important to understand individual student needs, and then provide appropriate resources to help them meet those needs and achieve their academic goals.

How to Achieve It

To help educators better understand and implement EFA, we have introduced the Success in Higher Education Framework in our white paper, Education for All: What It Takes to Get There. It covers three key building blocks all institutions should consider in their pursuit of an Education for All.

1. **Access and Achievement**
   This refers to a student's ability to be admitted, have the financial support, required materials, and excel academically.

2. **Being and Belonging**
   This focuses on a student's belief that they can be themselves and are a valued member of the institution's community as they are.

3. **Cause and Career**
   This recognizes a student's need to find and pursue their purpose while also being prepared for the real world.

Here are some of the questions the white paper poses to help you evaluate where your institution stands against our framework. They are designed to guide you toward a starting point for new initiatives.



Access and Achievement

- Is your institution taking consistent and measurable steps to make access to education available to as many students as possible?
- Are programs that give students easy, immediate, and low-cost access to course materials adequately leveraged?



Being and Belonging

- Is the diversity of the faculty and administration reflective of the diversity of the student population?
- Are different cultural perspectives and norms equally promoted and respected?



Cause and Career

- Are internships, career counseling, and employment plans mandatory components of the curriculum?
- Are students' job skills and availabilities highlighted to employers, and are connections to them actively fostered?

The Work

To do the work necessary to achieve Education for All, four subtle but necessary paradigm shifts in mindset must occur:

1. **Listen to Your Students**
   Some best practices include: (a) empowering students to devise and lead their own initiatives, (b) taking a position of partnership, not patronage, (c) accepting that you may never truly "understand," and (d) realizing that validating students is not predicated on your "understanding."

2. **Create Student-Centric Programs**
   Learners need a combination of programs working in concert to thrive. By focusing on what we know are the best practices for student success, programs can be designed to address the needs of the whole learner, thereby increasing the probability of achieving outcomes that all stakeholders desire.

3. **Leverage Your Community**
   Looking to your local community for strategic partnerships not only helps distribute the resources to those for whom they were reserved anyway, but also endears the entire student and faculty population to other stakeholders in their community. Food pantries that aid food-insecure learners are just one idea.

4. **Let Innovation Help**
   Institutions currently leading the way with successful initiatives are those that aren't afraid to try new methods. Adaptive technology platforms such as McGraw Hill Connect® and ALEKS® already allow instructors to track students' progress and be informed to step in with more help if needed. Other new technologies open even more possibilities.





Conclusion

Your institutions can create real change.

Being open to hearing issues when they are raised, working together to address them, harnessing technology to achieve things humans cannot, and leaning on the community at large for creative solutions are just some of the initiatives already within reach.

For more detailed information about what your institution can do to affect meaningful change, we invite you to read the complete white paper, *Education for All: What It Takes to Get There* at bit.ly/HigherEducationFramework.