

Acknowledgements



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Preface

Rationale for the Handbook



Globalization is transforming education. It is becoming ubiquitous in today's curriculum and assessment. Hence, there is an ever-increasing need for schools to become involved in international education. Many school authorities are actively involved; some are new to the scene, some have been involved in international education for many years in one form or another.

The handbook was developed to provide the necessary information and tools to assist school administrators in the development and implementation of successful international education programs. This useful resource will serve as a guide to answer questions, such as:

- What is international education?
- Why should I get involved?
- Who is involved and what is their role?
- How do I get involved?
- How do I implement a successful international education program?
- Where do I find available resources?

Our interconnectedness with other parts of the globe means that we are always—consciously or unconsciously—negotiating within a global context and so are our students. International education enables students to recognize their place in the international community and to reflect upon their role as global citizens.



Using this Handbook

This handbook contains the following major components.

Section 1: An Introduction

Chapters 1 to 3 – Introduces international education, its definition and benefits. This section addresses the following questions:

What is international education? Why is it important? Who is involved?

Section 2: Building a Framework

Chapters 4 to 9 – Sets the foundation for the handbook and presents the overarching guiding principles for successful international education programs. This section answers questions, such as:

How can school authorities internationalize? How do they build capacity to support internationalization? How might they integrate international education programs and activities?

Section 3: Introducing Programs

Chapters 10 to 15 – Describes the programs and provides a practical approach to implementing international education programs. Each section begins with guidelines specific to each program. This section deals with:

What programs can school authorities offer? What benefits does each program offer? How might school authority staff plan and implement them?

Section 4: Additional Information, References and Resources

Chapters 16 to 18, Glossary, References – Provides information on the resources available to support program implementation, information on hosting visitors and educational travel, and a glossary. The reader will discover:

What supports/resources are available to help? Where can school authorities go for more information?

Appendices – This section contains a comprehensive collection of documents; e.g., promotional material, guides, application forms, sample templates, booklets.

The handbook is also available on the Alberta Education Web site at <http://education.alberta.ca/students/internationaleducation.aspx>. Updates to the handbook will be made to the online version only. The loose-leaf format of this print version will allow users to incorporate updates from the online version. This format will also allow for the addition of other relevant material; e.g., standard school authority forms can be added to the respective areas in the Appendices.



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