

The National Education Council

For authentic and sustainable reform of the educational system in Lebanon

The National Education Council is hereby proposed as a Lebanese public, autonomous, and independent organism that serves the primary function of upholding formal education as a high quality public good and a significant national investment for the 21st century and beyond.

1. Mission

The National Education Council is an utmost urgent necessity to bring about authentic reform of our educational system and sustain the latter as a world-class system. The long due reform should bring about a futuristic system with radically new structure and governance, under new foundations, principles, policies, and concepts that meet the realities of our rapidly changing world and the actual and prospective needs of our country. The proposed Council would ensure that the reformed educational system meet, among others, the following ends:

1. To serve a well-defined national vision for education and development in accordance with rigorous policies that equitably ensure high quality education for all.
2. To maintain strategic continuity, under the said vision and policies, across successive terms of ministers of education and higher education and various other authorities.
3. To empower our youth for self-fulfillment and excellence in life, and to turn them into well-rounded global citizens who live with and for a strong national identity, and who can contribute to significant sustainable development at the local and national levels.
4. To turn teaching into a prestigious and highly acclaimed profession that attracts and sustains highly competent and dedicated people.
5. To deploy, under systemic mind and brain based pedagogical frameworks, dynamic, cross-disciplinary, community and student oriented curricula rather than one size fits all, rigid and academically focused curricula.
6. To grant end of cycle diplomas, governed by coherent and just policies and quality standards at all primary through tertiary educational levels, that offer a true testimony of student evolution across all years of a given cycle and not a snapshot of one-time achievement on a single battery of tests or other conventional types of assessment.
7. To transcend the dichotomy of general education and vocational and technical education in order to prepare our youth for lifelong learning and smooth and efficient induction in the workplace of the digital age.

8. To bring together into productive and futuristic partnership the educational public and private sectors.
9. To actively engage all non-educational sectors of society in education in order to ensure authenticity and viability of processes within various parts of the educational system, and validity of their output in terms of student readiness for productive and constructive integration in society.
10. To stay insightfully open and actively contribute to educational innovations, and critically adapt the necessary to meet emergent challenges and changes at the local, national, and global levels.

2. Functions

The National Education Council (NEC) would work with concerned authorities to maintain harmony with efficiency among all organs of the Lebanese educational system, from preschool through graduate education, and ensure significance and sustainability of the system impact on individual residents and society at large. Thus, and to meet the ends mentioned above, NEC would serve in the manner indicated in the attached organigram a number of functions including but not necessarily limited to the following:

1. To set, in consultation with concerned authorities, the educational vision for the entire country and the broad national policy for education and development, and continuously monitor and regulate (evaluate and revise/refine) vision reification and policy implementation.
2. To ensure that the entire educational system, from preschool through graduate education, is efficiently serving the said vision and policy under a systemic governance.
3. To set, in consultation with concerned authorities, and continuously monitor and regulate quality standards for the qualifications and performance of all organs (agents and agencies) of the educational system, along with binding guidelines for efficient implementation of those standards throughout the system.
4. To ensure that specific policies that mandate how individual organs should be and operate are duly set and implemented by concerned authorities, and in consonance with vision, broad policy, and quality standards.
5. To monitor the educational system, and issue periodic evaluation reports with binding recommendations for continuously improving the governance and performance (operations and output) of the educational system.
6. To bring together, through appropriate platforms, various sectors of society for continuous dialogue and recommendations regarding educational vision and policy, and performance of the educational system.
7. To gather, process, and manage all necessary data to serve NEC functions and deploy outcomes properly.
8. To propose, in consultation with concerned authorities, appropriate legislation to the Lebanese Parliament regarding various educational matters.
9. To act as a binding agency to refer to on all sorts of legislation and ensuing regulations regarding any aspect of education.
10. To maintain formal relations and proper communication and cooperation channels with international entities concerned with educational vision, policy, quality, and systemic matters.

CARE

The Coalition for Authentic Reform of Education in Lebanon

National Education Council

