



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

• Coordination Canada
• UNESCO
• Associated Schools

• Coordination Canada
• Écoles associées
• de l'UNESCO

UNESCO Associated Schools

Network in Canada

Introduction

The UNESCO Schools Network (also known as ASPnet, the Associated Schools Project Network) links educational institutions across the world around a common goal: to build the defenses of peace in the minds of children and young people. UNESCO schools work in support of international understanding, peace, intercultural dialogue, sustainable development, and quality education in practice. UNESCO schools use three complementary approaches:

1. **Creating:** As a laboratory of ideas, ASPnet develops, tests, and disseminates innovative educational materials and promotes new teaching and learning approaches based on UNESCO's core values and priorities.
2. **Teaching & Learning:** Capacity-building, innovative teaching, and participative learning in specific ASPnet thematic areas allow school principals, teachers, students, and the wider school community to integrate UNESCO's values and become role models in their community and beyond.
3. **Interacting:** ASPnet gives its stakeholders opportunities to connect and exchange experiences, knowledge, and good practices with schools, individuals, communities, policy-makers, and society as a whole.

All schools that join the network make a commitment to support UNESCO's ideals through four pillars of learning and four themes of study:

Pillars of Learning:	Themes of Study:
Learning to live together	Intercultural Learning
Learning to be	Global Citizenship Education
Learning to do	Education for Sustainable Development
Learning to know	UNESCO and UN Priorities

Vision

UNESCO schools aim to promote quality education in pursuit of peace and sustainable development.

Goals

The UNESCO Schools Network (ASPnet) is recognized by UNESCO as an effective mechanism for contributing to the [Sustainable Development Goal 4 - Education 2030](#) by reaching [target 4.7](#) on Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

UNESCO schools are agents for positive change. They:

- 1) Help to implement UNESCO's strategies and programs in education, science, culture, and communication;
- 2) Serve as laboratories of ideas on innovative approaches for quality education for all;
- 3) Translate the four pillars of 21st century education—learning to know, learning to do, learning to be, and learning to live together—into practice.

Long-Term Objectives:

1. To integrate GCE and ESD into the teaching and learning processes of UNESCO schools;
2. To experiment innovative approaches on GCE and ESD through UNESCO schools;
3. To strengthen the sharing of information, experiences, and good practices among UNESCO schools.

Membership

ASPnet currently has around 10,000 members in over 180 countries. Membership is open to public or private educational institutions which provide pre-primary, primary, secondary, technical or vocational education, and teacher training, in formal or non-formal settings.

There are two membership levels for Canadian schools: candidate schools and member schools.

- **Candidate Schools** are those that are interested in joining the network and working towards implementing a whole schools approach of the ideals, values, work, and principles of UNESCO within their school culture.
- **Member Schools** have demonstrated a sustained commitment to the ideals, values, work, and principles of UNESCO.

Benefits of Joining the Network

Added value for teachers and students include:

- participating in pilot projects that promote UNESCO's ideals and renew the learning process;
- supporting professional development for school staff and the acquisition of new skills for students in creativity, problem solving, communication, information technology, etc;
- taking part in joint projects on topics of vital importance and exchanges with other teachers and students within the country and abroad. A current example is a UNESCO pilot project on climate change being launched during the 2017-2018 school year where Hafford Central School from Saskatchewan has been selected as one of ten participating schools in Canada. This project includes 25 countries and 250 schools.

Added value for provinces and territories include:

- being part of a network that has recognition from UNESCO through direct links with the organization and the United Nations system;
- having the opportunity to showcase the great work of ASPnet schools from your province on the national and international stage;
- participate in innovative projects where new approaches are piloted; and having access to relevant UNESCO publications to share with your members across the province.