

El Salvador

National Higher Education Equity Policy

Governance

The Ministry of Education (MINED) through the National Directorate of Higher Education (DNES) is responsible for defining national higher education policies.

The following bodies work closely with the Minister of Education:

- National Council of Education CONED
- Higher Education Council CES
- Higher Education Accreditation Commission

Higher Education Policy Documents

- Higher Education Law 2004
- Legislative Decree 468 14 October 2004
- Decree 65 May 28, 2009 - General Regulations of Higher Education
- Decree 672 July 3, 2008 - Reform of the Art48 Law (MEGATEC Model and Scholarships) and Art53 (changes to the CES)
- Five-Year Development Plan 2014-2019 published in 2015
- El Salvador Educated Plan 2016-2026 published in 2016
- National Education Plan 2021 - published in 2005
- National Higher Education Policy (2018 Proposal).

Equity Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- Prioritize departments with the population with greater barriers to access careers relevant to their territorial development.
- Increase access to higher education through scholarships
- Comprehensive support for vulnerable students of higher education
- Inclusion and equity in HEIs

The following equity target groups are identified in the policy documents

- Low income students
- Gender groups
- Students with disabilities

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

Yes, although they are not quantifiable.

- The University of El Salvador (UES) allocates and executes 3% of the general budget transfer from the Government to guarantee the equity and efficiency of higher education.
- Implement the national scholarships program for public higher education.
- Action plan to increase universities' income in order to reduce tuition fees.
- Increase the offering of distance and virtual education programs
- Increase access of students to the UES.
- Create a national scholarships system for private higher education.

Is there a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education?

- El Salvador does not have a standalone policy document dedicated to promoting equity in higher education.

El Salvador has a number of specific anti-discrimination provisions embedded in the following pieces of legislation:

- Law on equality, equity and the eradication of discrimination against women - Decree No. 645 March 17, 2011
- Law on the Equity of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Decree 888 April 27, 2000

The Government of El Salvador uses a series of financial and non-monetary instruments to promote equity.

Financial Policy Instruments

- Student Loan Program.
- Scholarship programs: Total or partial scholarships are awarded according to socio-economic needs of students. The scholarship includes both tuition and monthly subsistence. It also includes medical insurance. There are different types of scholarships:
 - The FANTEL Scholarship Program: a Special Fund for Resources from the Privatization of ANTEL. The Program grants National and Foreign Scholarships for undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral studies to students who excel academically but do not have sufficient financial resources.
 - Presidential Scholarships for students who have obtained the highest score in the SEAP in each of the 14 departments of the country.

Non-Monetary Policy Instruments

- *Affirmative Action*: Tutoring and monitoring the academic and personal situation of the scholarship beneficiaries. (Improvement of study habits, planning extracurricular activities, time management to face the university challenges).
- *Career Guidance* to orient study pathways based on individual interests, aptitudes and intellectual capacities, to guarantee academic success.

Financial Resources

What financial resources does the country have to promote equity strategies and policies?

- Information not available

Quality Assurance

The quality assurance criteria do not take equity elements into account.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Information not available

Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency

El Salvador does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion.

Key Equity Indicator

Net Enrollment Rate by Gender, Income Quintiles and Area

AÑO	Gender		Quintiles of income					Area		
	Total	Female	Male	1	2	3	4	5	Rural	Urban
2011	15,9	16,8	15,0	2,1	5,9	10,6	19,7	40,2	5,3	22,8
2012	17,3	16,7	17,8	2,6	6,7	13,1	21,6	45,1	5,1	25,4
2013	17,9	18,8	17,1	3,2	7,2	14,3	21,9	46,2	5,8	26,0
2014	16,8	17,9	15,7	2,5	7,5	12,1	22,2	42,6	5,8	23,8
2015	17,5	18,7	16,3	3,9	5,4	13,7	22,0	43,9	5,9	25,0
2016	19,0	20,4	17,3	3,4	9,1	13,9	24,0	46,4	6,0	27,3

Source: SEDLAC (CEDLAS and The World Bank) May 2018

Sources.

<https://www.mined.gob.sv/index.php/programas-educativos/educacion-superior/item/7025-filosof%C3%ADa-direcci%C3%B3n-nacional-de-educaci%C3%B3n-superior>

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