

Mexico

National Higher Education Equity Policy

Governance

The Secretariat of Public Education, via the Sub-Secretariat of Higher Education (SES), is responsible for the policies and programs for Mexican society to receive quality higher education that is fair, relevant, flexible, innovative, diversified and universal.

Higher Education Policy Documents

- General Education Law (Last reform published DOF 19-01-2018).
- Law for the Coordination of Higher Education (December 29, 1978).
- Organic Laws of autonomous public universities.
- The Sectorial Education Program 2013-2018 which proposes strengthening the quality and relevance of higher education and ensuring higher coverage, inclusion and educational equity in population groups (PSE2018).
- 2030 Agenda (ONU2030)

Equity Policy Documents

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

- Reduce inequalities through attention to vulnerable groups.
- Establish agreements with higher education institutions for places and scholarships for returning and deported young Mexicans.
- Guarantee an inclusive, equitable, and quality education that promotes learning opportunities throughout life.
- Increase the number of scholarships available to students.
- Reduce gender disparities in higher education and guarantee equal access for people in vulnerable situations.
- Equality of Opportunities and Non-Discrimination against Women.

- Expand the coverage of higher education with equity and quality, reducing inter-state gaps for the benefit of all Mexicans.
- Strengthen programs and actions to eliminate gender disparities in higher education and to guarantee equal access for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and indigenous persons.

The following equity target groups are identified in the policy documents

- Mexicans deported from the USA and their families.
- Persons in a vulnerable situation who, due to discrimination, intolerance or social exclusion, do not enjoy the same opportunities as everyone else.
- Women in higher education institutions.
- Binational youths (dreamers) in the education system.
- Children of active, retired, killed in combat or disabled soldiers of the Mexican Armed Forces.

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

- By the year 2024, to achieve a 22% gross enrollment rate for students from households in the first four deciles, with special attention to the indigenous population.

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

- Mexico does not have a standalone higher education equity policy.

Mexico has a number of specific anti-discrimination provisions embedded in the following pieces of legislation

- Federal Law to prevent and eliminate discrimination (last reform published on 06-21-2018)
- National Council to Prevent Discrimination (CONAPRED)
- General Law for equality between women and men (last reform published on 14-06-2018)
- Law of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (last reform published on 22-06-2017)

- General Law for the inclusion of people with disabilities (latest reforms published on 12-12-2018)

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

Financial Policy Instruments

- *Scholarship Program (PRONABES)*: Scholarships and other incentives to decrease drop-out rates and promote the transition to employment for high school and higher education graduates.
- *Scholarships and Grants* for national or international mobility, academic excellence, and social services.
- *Public or private Student Loans* which can be partially paid during the studies or after graduation.
- *Competitive funds* to increase the coverage of public HEIs, to diversify offerings, and increase attendance by indigenous and/or disabled student populations.
- The CONACYT program that benefit indigenous students is only for graduate students.

Non-Monetary Policy Instruments

- The National Emerging University Program for the Completion of Higher Education (PUENTES) facilitates the entry of young Mexican students who live and study in the USA and wish to finish their studies in Mexican higher education institutions (program with the ANUIES).
- Tutorials programs to support students improve their academic performance.
- Extracurricular activities to promote the welfare and balanced development of students.
- The Academic Support Program for Indigenous Students (PAAEI): provides Indigenous students with the necessary facilities to achieve a solid academic education, with equal educational opportunities and with full respect for their identity.

- *Affirmative compensatory actions* to mitigate inequalities and inequity in access and permanence due to economic reasons, gender, ethnic origin or different abilities of students.

Financial Resources

The resources of Mexico destined to promote strategies and policies of equity are reflected in the following figures available to 2015.

- Total expenditure on higher education as a percentage of GDP: 2015 - 1.41%
- Public spending on higher education as a percentage of GDP 2015 - 1.08%
- Current expenditure in higher education by type of expenditure- 2015: Salaries 71.94%; Goods and services 20.26%; Scholarships and subsidies 7.80%

Quality Assurance

The quality assurance criteria take the following equity elements into consideration:

- Remedial actions to reduce the failure and drop-out rates.
- Scholarship programs for students with high academic performance and/or low resources.
- Artistic and cultural activities; physical and sports activities; professional orientation.
- Psychological counseling; Medical services;
- School link - family
- Support services for learning: tutoring; academic advising; library and access to information.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Who is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures?

- The Secretariat of Public Education, through the Sub-Secretariat of Higher Education and with the support of the National Institute for the Evaluation

of Education (INEE) is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures.

- The National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) is an autonomous decentralized public body of the Federal Public Administration, with the technical capacity to generate objective information on the impact of social policy and measure poverty in Mexico to improve the decision-making in the matter.
- Inter-institutional Committees for the Evaluation of Higher Education: CIEES.

What instruments, methods and data are in place to carry out the monitoring and evaluation activities?

- Impact evaluations developed by the SEP and the Sub-Secretariat of Higher Education, with the support of CONEVAL

Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency

The Mexican government does not have an agency exclusively dedicated to promoting equity policies and strategies in higher education.

Key Equity Indicator

Net Enrollment Rate by Gender, Income Quintile and Area

Year	Gender			Income Quintiles					Area	
	Total	Female	Male	1	2	3	4	5	Rural	Urban
2008	25,8	25,5	26,2	10,8	15,9	18,2	26,8	52,9	9,0	29,9
2010	28,4	30,0	26,8	10,5	18,2	24,9	30,8	54,8	12,2	32,9
2012	29,0	30,1	28,0	13,8	18,2	17,7	32,6	56,8	12,0	33,3
2014	29,4	30,8	28,0	13,3	17,7	23,8	33,5	56,8	11,0	34,4
2016	31,2	31,0	31,5	15,3	22,0	27,7	33,2	55,8	14,5	35,9

Source: SEDLAC (CEDLAS and World Bank), May 2018 version

Sources

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