

Logan Bunker

Huffington Post

Best Education In The World: Finland, South Korea Top Country Rankings, U.S. Rated Average

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The United States places 17th in the developed world for education, according to a global ranking by education firm Pearson.

Finland and South Korea, not surprisingly, top the list of 40 developed countries with education systems. Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore are calculated between 2008 and 2010, and the U.S. is ranked 17th.

Pearson's chief executive said the firm's research tends to offer a more realistic picture of the world's education systems.

The study notes that the U.S. is not as supportive of education as other countries, which is why South Korea and Finland are ranked higher. "The U.S. is behind because of a series of choices that have been made over the last few decades."

The study aims to help U.S. policymakers understand successful education systems and how they can be replicated. It also looks at government spending, teacher pay, and government choice. Research also looks at GDP, life expectancy, and other factors.

The report also looks at teacher recruitment, teacher quality, and better performance.

1. **There is a need to change the way we think about education.** The report says that the U.S. has a long history of focusing on standardized testing and rote learning. It argues that this approach is outdated and does not prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century. The report calls for a shift towards a more holistic approach to education that focuses on developing students' critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills.
2. **Respect for individual differences is key.** The report notes that the U.S. has a diverse population with different cultural backgrounds and learning styles. It argues that the current education system is not designed to accommodate these differences. The report calls for a more personalized approach to education that recognizes and respects each student's unique strengths and needs.
3. **Culture can be changed:** The cultural assumptions and values surrounding education in the U.S. do more to support or undermine it than the system can do on its own. The report argues that the current education system is based on a culture of rote learning and standardized testing. It calls for a change in the cultural assumptions and values that surround education, so that the system can better support the needs of all students.

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