

# Global Learning Spaces

## What do we mean when we use the term Global Learning?

Contemporary societies are marked by new global trends—economic, cultural, technological, and environmental shifts that are part of a rapid and uneven wave of globalization. The growing global interdependence that characterizes our time calls for a generation of individuals who can engage in effective global problem solving and participate simultaneously in local, national, and global civic life. Put simply, preparing our students to participate fully in today's and tomorrow's world demands that we nurture their global competence (Asia Society, *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World*). It is the purpose of this guide to help teachers gain a better understanding of how to grow students' understanding of global interdependence and their place in the world.

The heart of global education is enabling young people to participate in shaping a better, shared future for the world. Global education emphasizes the unity and interdependence of human society, developing a sense of self and appreciation of cultural diversity, affirmation of social justice and human rights, as well as building peace and actions for a sustainable future in different times and places. Global education promotes positive values and assists students to take responsibility for their actions and to see themselves as global citizens who can contribute to a more peaceful, just and sustainable world (Global Education, Aust.)

Definition: Students are demonstrating their understandings of the complexities of cultures and global issues and their ability to see viewpoints beyond their own when they leverage their experiences to positively impact the world around them.

1. investigate the world; recognize different viewpoints.
2. analyze perspectives, others and their own
3. explain the cultural impacts of their decisions and the decisions of others; articulating own biases
4. take action to improve conditions, participating reflectively with cultural competence and understanding of diverse perspectives

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