

Annual Action Plan 2018-2019 Submission

1. Action or program proposed:

Resisting the Corporatization and Privatization of Education

- Review and compile research regarding the corporate agenda for education, especially around education technology.
Resource: NYTimes Education Disrupted series. “How Silicon Valley Plans to Conquer the Classroom” <https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/11/03/technology/silicon-valley-baltimore-schools.html>
Resource: Work of Audrey Watters, education writer, <http://hackededucation.com/>
Video: Audrey Watters: Current Trends in Education and Technology Part 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrVnLFYd4iU>
- Collaborate with experts on privacy, data mining and human rights to better understand the scope of the problem with corporations reach into our schools and classrooms.
Resource: EFF Report: “Spying on Students: School-Issued Devices and Student Privacy” https://www.eff.org/wp/school-issued-devices-and-student-privacy?utm_content=buffer3a6f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer
Resource: The Baffler: “How Silicon Valley’s brand of behaviorism has entered the classroom” <https://thebaffler.com/latest/behaviorism-education-watters>
- Raise awareness with our Members and the Public about the corporate agenda for education, especially around education technology. (ex. conference, Leadership/AMPA keynote speaker, workshops at Leadership, Educational Services Conference or CPAC Conferences)
- Raise awareness with our Members and the Public about the health concerns related to screens and health. (Health and Safety could work on this. PSSP Members are already or could be in-house experts on this)
Resource: Preventative Medicine: “Screen time is associated with depression and anxiety in Canadian youth” <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0091743515000316>
- Develop a plan to help protect the education system, Members and students from commercialization and to resist corporatization in education. (ex. Lobby kit)
- Develop a bargaining strategy to safeguard against corporatization of education. (ex. model language for e-learning, professional judgement, etc.)

2. Rationale for proposal:

- This is in-line with OSSTF's 2017 Action Plan on ResearchED – an evidence-based approach to education as opposed to an industry-driven agenda.
- Mental Health is a massive issue in education. The latest research is frightening regarding the impact of screens on mental health and health in general. We, as educators, must be aware of this growing crisis and be part of the solutions in our society. Our PSSP members, such as psychologists and clinical consultants, can be invaluable resources on this topic. Teachers and other educators need to understand the impact of information technology on ourselves and on students.

Resource: Time.com, "We Need to Talk About Kids and Smartphones"
<http://time.com/4974863/kids-smartphones-depression/>

Resource: CBC's Marketplace: 'We're designing minds': Industry insider reveals secrets of addictive app trade <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/marketplace-phones-1.4384876>

Resource: Switzerland: Letter to Teachers Issued by the Child and Youth Health Service of Geneva on the Health Risks of Use of Digital Technology
<https://mieuxprevenir.blogspot.ca/2017/09/switzerland-note-issued-by-child-and.html>

- We need to catch up on this issue. Technology is ahead of us. It is being implemented faster than we can consider the implications and put precautions in place. This plays into the hands of industry which is profiteering on our ignorance.

Resource: CCPA's Our Schools/Our Selves, Winter 2013: 21st Century Learning Inc"
https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2013/02/osos110_21stCenturyLearning_0.pdf

- Education International is examining this on a global scale. We need to see ourselves in this privatization agenda.

Resource: Education International Report: "The Hidden Privatisation in Public Education"
<http://download.ei-ie.org/docs/IRISDocuments/Research%20Website%20Documents/2009-00034-01-E.pdf>

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