

Request From Annual Meeting 2008
Key Points - Public Private Partnerships In Public Education for use with NZEI
Te Riu Roa Membership

Introduction

Public Private Partnerships involve the importing of ideas, techniques and practices from the private sector in order to make the public sector more like businesses and more business-like.and/or Involve forms of privatisation that open up public education services to private sector participation on a for-profit basis and using the private sector to design, manage or deliver aspects of public education.

Guiding Principles for this Report

1. A government funded state education system must provide funding to cover the operation of the school to deliver its core educational function.
2. Funding of schools should come directly from the state, supporting the self management of schools, and not through third party organisations i.e. contracting out.
3. Teaching and programme delivery in each school should be context bound and should be decided by the school leader, staff and board of trustees.
4. Student achievement should be the focus of school programmes not commercial interest.

Characteristics of Public Private Partnerships that NZEI would support

- Initiated by the school with free and open buy-in
- Goals and outcomes defined and controlled by the school
- Full community support i.e. board of trustees, staff, principal etc.
- Expertise being provided free of financial or other cost to the school
- Where the school benefits without obligation to support or promote the partner.

Characteristics of Public Private Partnerships that NZEI would not support

- Initiated, lead and profited by the private sector organization
- Influences and or directs the values, culture and programmes such as curriculum, or specific ideologies of the school
- Expectation of profit for the private company
- Request by the business for commercial influence through the school.

Conclusion

It is important NZEI has a position that enables a strong response whenever quality public education is deemed to be threatened. The continuation of state provided and publicly owned education is at the core of NZEI's interests and the national interest. The involvement of companies and commercial interests in profit making ventures in schools is considered a diversion of public funds to other causes. The ability of a school principal, staff and boards of trustees to determine the nature and content of school programmes is considered an essential right.

18 November 2008