

Minority Students and their Access to Education
Exploring New Possibilities of Ethnic Independent Schools from Canadian Experiences

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The presentation will approach both systematic dilemmas and possibilities for expansion of the independently supported public education system and the question of access to education for multilingual and multicultural children. In this presentation I would like to introduce the example of the state of British Columbia which publically funds independent schools that respect linguistic, cultural and religious diversity and the example of Ontario which refuses private support and is starting up ethnic schools with a majority of black students within the remit of the public school system.

From the perspective of cultivating diverse human resources in an age of globalization, does support for multicultural minority schools, which are designed to meet the needs of children with plural backgrounds as the centrally organized and uniform education system reaches its limits, contain within it the possibility of expanding the plurality of the education environment and increasing the choices available to all children? I wish to examine in what ways it may be possible for education which respects people's complicated and plural nature to be carried out within public education (at the elementary and junior high school levels).