



Educational Research Center (ERC) is dedicated to continuously improve the state of education in the Arab World. ERC views education as a lifelong process of developing productive, insightful citizens who work in meaningful and constructive ways for their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of others. To this end, ERC conducts various types of educational research, and provides the following services and products to Arab countries and the international community.

Curriculum reform and development

ERC assists interested Arab countries in continuous evaluation and reform of various types of curricula. Assistance extends from the definition of a curriculum framework that aims at developing a well-defined student profile, to corresponding programs of study, methods and means of learning, instruction and assessment, and curriculum evaluation tools.

ERC also has its own initiatives in these and other educational respects. Among these initiatives is the International Arab Baccalaureate (IAB), a comprehensive educational program that ERC has launched for implementation in the academic year 2010-2011 all over the Arab World. IAB helps teachers to continuously build their capacity, and students to develop the profile needed for success in modern life. It culminates in a secondary school diploma that will be locally and internationally recognized.

Authentic assessment

ERC develops authentic assessment tools that are well-integrated in any given curriculum, and that help learners and teachers to continuously ascertain and optimize their meaningful knowledge and constructive practice. Assessments cover epistemic and cognitive dimensions of a student profile (conceptions, processes and dispositions), from diagnostic, formative, and summative perspectives, and include regular classroom tools as well as standardized tests for various disciplines (paper-and-pencil and electronic, in Arabic, English and French).

ERC's assessment initiatives include the Student Profile Assessment (SPA). SPA is meant to be an international, and pan-Arab, assessment program that yields common, reliable indicators of grade 11 students' proficiency in core disciplines. It allows students to make insightful judgment about their prospective university majors, and policymakers to bring about informed and reliable educational policies.

Professional development

ERC is in the process of instituting a certified teacher licensing program for the entire Arab World. Meanwhile, it continues to conduct regular training workshops all over this part of the world to continuously bring teachers, supervisors and various educational officials and policymakers up to date on the latest pedagogical developments. As part of lifelong education for teachers, ERC fosters action-research in the classroom, professional learning communities and university-school partnerships.

Textbooks

ERC develops research-based, field-tested K-12 textbook series for various disciplines, including science (in Arabic, English and French), mathematics (in all three languages), social studies, and Arabic, English and French languages. Some of ERC series are pan-Arab editions, while others are tailored to the specific needs of individual countries (public and private sectors). All ERC textbooks are grounded in experiential, student-centered pedagogy, and follow well-defined, coherent scope and helicoïdal sequence. Any ERC series includes a student textbook with a teacher guide, a practice or activity book with a teacher guide, an assessment guide and remedial and enrichment materials.

Educational resources

In addition to its textbooks, ERC develops various resources for teacher and student use, often in collaboration with its local and international partners. Resources include interactive learning websites and/or CDs, on-line assessment, e-marking of paper exams, paper and electronic readers and other reference materials, discipline-specific dictionaries and encyclopedia.