



Global Schools First

WHAT IS GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION?

DEFINING GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Global citizenship refers to a sense of belonging to a common humanity and shared responsibility among human beings for finding solutions to global challenges. Global citizens are those who honor the rights and dignity of every human being through kindness, compassion, and empathy. They recognize that in an ever-changing, increasingly interconnected world, we all must learn to live together peacefully.

Unlike national citizenship, global citizenship does not have a legal basis. Instead, global citizenship is a way of thinking about the world and one's place in it. In other words, it is a mindset that can—and should—be learned.

Along with families and other social institutions, schools share the responsibility for nurturing global mindedness. Through education for global citizenship, they harness the transformative potential of education to empower learners with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to become global citizens.

Through global citizenship education, we learn to respect one another, work together to address complex human challenges, develop skills and acquire knowledge that enhances our global awareness, and take action to create a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world for all human beings, now and in the future.



ACEI defines **global citizenship education** as a framework that:

- Guides learners to understand themselves, others, and the world around them
- Teaches learners to value the contributions that every individual and every community makes to the whole of humanity
- Prepares learners to communicate, collaborate, and reach mutual understanding across many lines of difference
- Instills a sense of shared responsibility for addressing global challenges
- Helps learners to identify innovative solutions to improve their communities and world.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION FOR THE EARLY YEARS

Global citizenship education is a lifelong journey—one that begins when we are very young, before we ever enter a school. As we grow and develop relationships outside the family, we learn about who we are—our identity—and how we are similar to and different from others. Learning to respect all kinds of human differences is as much an encounter with ourselves as it is with those who are different from us. This early learning is the foundation of global citizenship education.

Primary schools (approximately ages 5-12) play a critical role in preparing young learners to become global citizens. All members of the school community share the responsibility for nurturing children’s growing sense of self and helping them to relate with people from many different backgrounds. Schools also help children to develop interpersonal skills such as kindness, compassion, and empathy. As children’s perspectives expand to include their classrooms, schools, community, nations, and the world, they take the first steps toward adopting the mindset of global citizenship.



“Whereas national citizenship is an accident of birth, global citizenship is an act of will.”

— Queen Rania of Jordan

SIX DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

The *Six Dimensions of Global Citizenship Education* are a framework that represents how global competence and global citizenship education can be integrated throughout a school and incorporated into schoolwide global learning strategies. The assessments in Global Schools First Level 1 and Level 2 are based on this framework. You will learn more about the six dimensions—and what they might look like at the school level—in Level 2. Brief descriptions of the *Six Dimensions of Global Citizenship Education* are provided below.

DISCOVERING OURSELVES AND OTHERS



Developing self-awareness and learning to appreciate the unique identities and perspectives of diverse others.

EMBRACING SHARED VALUES



Understanding universal ethical principles and shared values and using these ideas to reinforce our common humanity.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



Establishing relationships of mutual understanding through trust, respect, sensitivity, communication and consensus-building.

EXPLORING OUR INTERCONNECTED WORLD



Expressing curiosity and thinking critically about connections between issues in the local community and global challenges.

MAKING INFORMED CHOICES



Evaluating credibility and accuracy of information, analyzing arguments, conducting inquiries, and making and sharing decisions.

CREATING CHANGE THROUGH INNOVATION



Analyzing critical issues, innovating to find solutions, and acting to achieve sustainable change for a better world for all.
