



D³ Consultants
DEDICATION. DEVOTION. DEPENDABILITY.

Education Plus | D³ Monthly Newsletter

June 2020, 18th Issue

+973 1755 1662 info@D3consultants.net d3consultants.net

COVID-19's Long-Term Impacts on Education in 2020 and Beyond



As COVID-19 spreads around the globe and the threat of a recession materializes, most people are focused properly on the immediate task at hand—preparing to teach and support students remotely.

Beyond that, there will also be significant longer-term impacts.

The biggest shifts may occur at the intersections of K-12, higher education and workforce learning. Often these areas are treated as their own distinct silos in the education market, but the coronavirus crisis has revealed how interdependent these sectors may be.

What exactly will happen is hard to divine. Here's a forecast from several education officials along with my colleagues at Entangled Group, an education venture studio and consulting firm.

Shortages in Teachers, Students Expose Fragile Models

Doug Lynch, a faculty member at USC Rossier School of Education, noted two interdependencies between K-12 and higher education that could get hairy. For one, "high school kids will not be able to take SAT or ACT in the same numbers and it will impact next year's enrollments in higher ed,"

Lynch also observed that **because current college students who are training to be teachers won't be able to fulfill their in-person practicum requirements as student-teachers in schools, there will be an increased shortage of K-12 teachers next year.**

COVID-19 will also exacerbate weaknesses in higher education business models, particularly in colleges and universities that are highly dependent on international students and haven't created an adequate online strategy.

Will Education Still Be Countercyclical to the Market?

In the workforce-learning arena, Matthew Daniel, a partner at Entangled, believes that in addition to canceling face-to-face training sessions, **companies are growing concerned about talent pipelines from colleges and universities as their recruiters will be unable to attend on-campus recruiting events.**

"This could have repercussions for years to stable processes and programs, not just the immediate impact to a few classes," Daniel observed. "Even if [companies] can make the hires, will those students be able to travel, and what kind of onboarding will be provided to new employees?"

Everyone is being forced to make hard decisions on what is truly mission critical and what alternatives are available."

It's often said that **education is "countercyclical" to the market, meaning that demands for educational services increase in times of economic downturn.** Employee training and development programs are the first things that corporations cut in times of recession. Lynch, of USC doesn't expect that to be any different this time.

But although recessions have historically resulted in increased enrollment in higher education programs as laid-off workers try to improve their future job prospects, Lynch said that is no guarantee this time around. Given the uncertainty around the length of this recession, and the availability of short-term "bootcamp" like programs, people may be unwilling to enroll in longer (and often costlier) programs.

As fears of budget cuts materializes, it may be tempting for education leaders to back off from innovation efforts and plans and it could be too easy just to say 'let's put this on the shelf until better times' but far-sighted leaders will do more and **keep investments in programs that support education delivery systems that are better able to withstand a variety of crisis scenarios, from pandemics to natural disasters, from economic downturns to teacher walkouts.**

