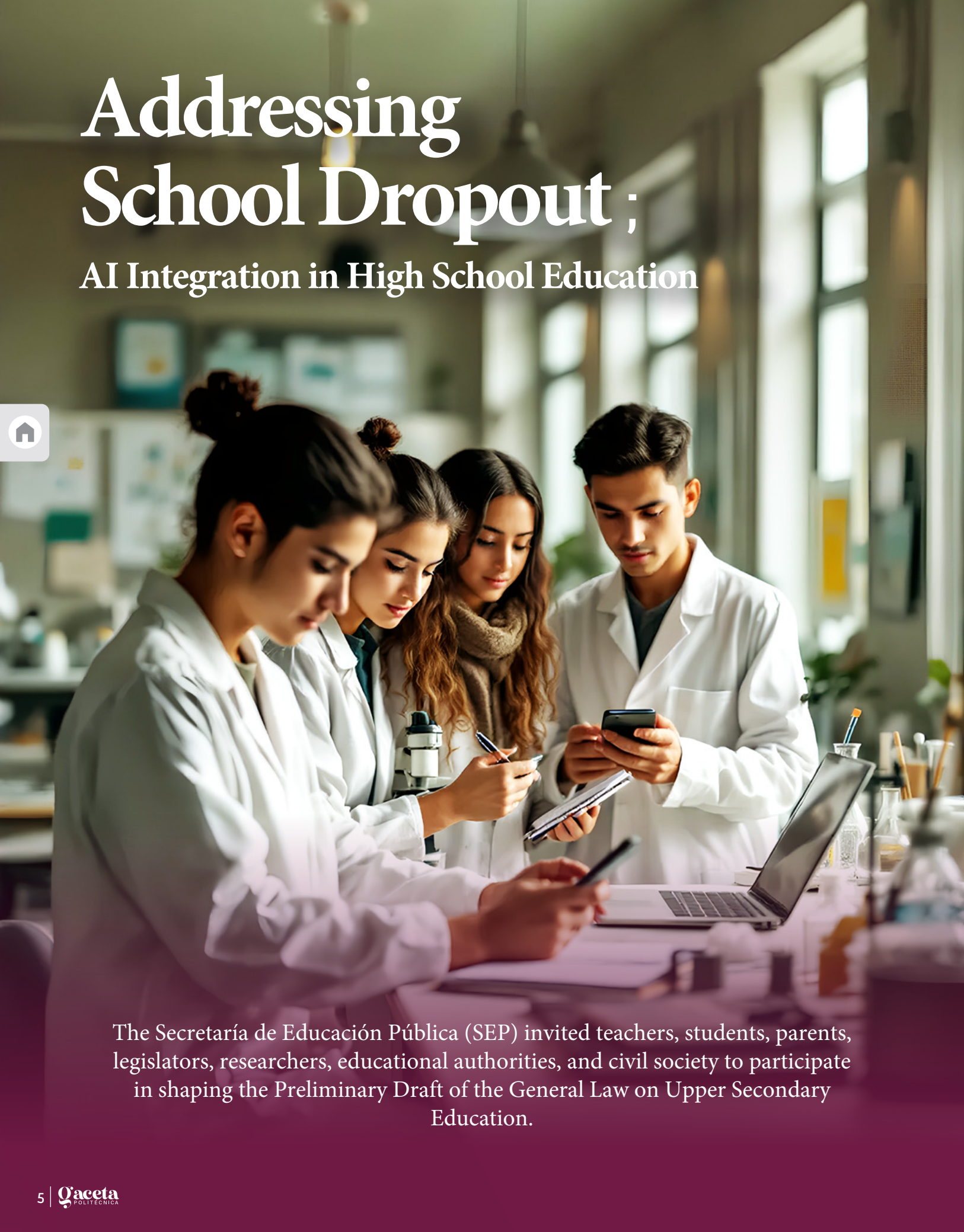


Addressing School Dropout ; AI Integration in High School Education



The Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP) invited teachers, students, parents, legislators, researchers, educational authorities, and civil society to participate in shaping the Preliminary Draft of the General Law on Upper Secondary Education.



Mario Delgado Carrillo, head of the SEP (front row, center); Arturo Reyes Sandoval, General Director of the IPN (third from the right); Luis González Placencia, Secretary General of ANUIES (first from left to right); and Tania Rodríguez Mora, Undersecretary of Upper Secondary Education at the SEP (first on the right).

ADDA AVENDAÑO/ROCÍO CASTAÑEDA

In response to challenges such as school dropout, low academic performance, lack of resources and infrastructure, and high-risk behaviors, the need for a humanistic school planning model was discussed during the Third Regional Forum and Consultation for the Development of the Preliminary Draft of the General Law on Upper Secondary Education – Metropolitan Region.

The Jaime Torres Bodet Auditorium at the Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN) hosted directors, rectors, representatives from various upper secondary education subsystems, national and local educational authorities, and legislators. Together, they analyzed the current educational landscape, discussed challenges and perspectives, and proposed actions to enhance upper secondary education and improve graduation rates.

During the inauguration, Mario Delgado Carrillo, Secretary of Public Education, and Arturo Reyes Sandoval, General Director of IPN,

led discussions alongside Luis González Placencia, Executive Secretary General of ANUIES. González Placencia described these forums as historic collaborative efforts to shape the General Law on Upper Secondary Education.

He emphasized that, alongside the General Law on Higher Education and the Law on Science, Technology, Innovation, and Humanities, this new legislation will complete the legal framework required by the New Mexican School and ensure access to education as a fundamental human right.

"We are at a pivotal moment to consolidate the most significant reform in upper secondary education since this level was established in our country," he stated.

Reyes Sandoval highlighted that the forum represents a reflective, democratic, and participatory exercise where stakeholders contribute ideas and proposals based on their expertise in education.

FACT OF INTEREST

The six regional forums and consultations for the development of the Preliminary Draft of the General Law on Upper Secondary Education, held in Tijuana, Morelia, Mexico City, Mérida, Toluca, and San Luis Potosí, aim to strengthen the Comprehensive Plan for the National Upper Secondary Education System under the New Mexican School model.

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We are facing great opportunity to consolidate the most important reform of higher education reform since this level of education this educational level was established in our country.

Their goal is to ensure universal access to upper secondary education, as mandated by the Mexican Constitution.

“It is essential that we join forces and work together because we firmly believe that youth should be synonymous with opportunities, talent and well-being, and that investing in and guaranteeing their future is the best bet we can make as a nation,” she said.

Addressing the Causes of Dropout

In addition to detailing the educational services they offer, their school enrollment, campuses, graduates, and diagnoses of the persistent challenges, the speakers pointed out various problems that persist in the high schools and that need to be addressed to consolidate legislation at this educational level.

Representing the Centro de Estudios Tecnológicos Industrial y de Servicios (CETIS) No. 154, Professor Lucrecia Rivas de León pointed out that dropout rates are influenced by low academic performance, lead-



Lucrecia Rivas de León, CETIS 154 teacher

ing to demotivation, disinterest, and absenteeism. She also noted the lack of parental supervision and support.

Additional factors include inadequate infrastructure, low academic expectations, economic necessity forcing students to work, and violence near schools. Furthermore, heterogeneous curricula across different educational subsystems make student transitions difficult.

Professor Rivas de León stressed the importance of standardizing curricula and synchronizing their coordination, allowing students to transfer between institutions via a shared digital platform seamlessly. She also emphasized the need to promote virtual education to expand learning opportunities.

At the forum, Professor Jonathan Marón Martínez Rodríguez proposed a five-pronged approach to student retention, Teacher training, Administrator upskilling, Industry partnerships, Innovation aligned with societal needs, Environmental and sustainability initiatives.

Integrating Artificial Intelligence and a Second Language

With rapid technological advancements reshaping daily life, Hugo Díaz Rodríguez, representing the Academic Network of Upper Secondary Education (Tu-Red), underscored the urgency of keeping education aligned with these developments.

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It is essential that courses involving new technologies and AI applications are closely linked to awareness and training on their responsible and ethical use



Leoncio López Curiel, commissioner of the General Directorate of Agricultural Technology Education and Marine Sciences in Puebla.

Therefore, he explained the importance of incorporating new technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) from the high school level to take advantage of its potential through various applications that encourage students to explore new ways of learning and acquire better knowledge.

Some examples, he said, are the visualization of the process of solving a mathematical problem, the simulation of a chemical reaction, the propagation of a virus, the functioning of human organs, in addition to the information they have within reach of their mobile devices, which will allow them to learn more and achieve a better quality education.

In this sense, he added, it is important to mention that courses involving new technologies and the application of AI should be closely linked to awareness and training in the responsible and conscious use of these tools.

Professor Martha Velia Méndez Soriano emphasized that globalization has significantly transformed the job market in Mexico and beyond. She stressed the importance of learning a second language, as it is crucial for securing high-paying jobs and standing out in an increasingly competitive professional landscape.

Towards a New Humanistic Mode

Leoncio López Curiel, Commissioner of the General Directorate of Agricultural Technological Education and Marine Sciences in Puebla, proposed shifting from a hierarchical administrative model to a participatory school planning model. This approach would incorporate historical educational principles such as reciprocity, communal cooperation, collectivity, and collaboration.

Similarly, Janette Pagaza Martínez, Director of Academics at the General Directorate of Technological and Agricultural Education and Marine Sciences (DGETAyCM), emphasized the need to integrate topics such as water conservation, environmental sustainability, and indigenous cultural diversity into upper secondary education. These principles align with the New Mexican School's vision, which values ancestral knowledge and ethical civic engagement.

She emphasized that Higher Secondary Education should not only provide technical knowledge, but also form integral citizens who understand their rights and obligations, who are actively involved in decision making and who contribute to the common welfare with an ethical and responsible vision to build a fairer and more equitable country. ♀