



Foundation

Proposals on Key Issues Pertaining to the Education Sector

**It starts at home: Empowering Parents to
Empower the Future**



P R E A M B L E

This report was developed by the ILMA Foundation in response to the communique issued by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource, which invited all stakeholders to contribute views and proposals ahead of the national education forum, *les Assises de l'Éducation*, to be held on 15, 16, and 17 April 2025. The Ministry's call specifically sought input on key issues within the education sector, including curriculum reform, pedagogical approaches, home-school partnerships, extra-curricular development, inclusivity, foundational literacy and numeracy, career guidance, special education needs, discipline and violence prevention, teacher training, and the integration of technology and values-based education.

In alignment with this call, the ILMA Foundation has prepared this submission with the aim of contributing meaningful, research-informed proposals to strengthen education in Mauritius. The Foundation remains firmly committed to promoting equitable and inclusive education for all, grounded in both national values and global best practices. Due to the late notice and limited access to local educational data, this report relies primarily on secondary sources and comparative international research to formulate evidence-based recommendations.

The absence of a national framework for data collection, monitoring, and educational research presents a critical barrier to progress. Therefore, one of the core recommendations herein is the establishment of a comprehensive, nationwide education data infrastructure. Without accurate, timely data, policy-making remains reactive and limited in scope.

Moreover, while this forum is a valuable platform for dialogue, sustained change cannot be achieved through discussion alone. True education reform requires systemic implementation and community alignment. Because education is a national matter, the active participation and informed consent of parents are non-negotiable. Parents must be informed, engaged, and involved—not sidelined or politicized—if reform is to succeed and endure. This report proposes frameworks and recommendations with that principle at its core: that real reform begins not just in classrooms or ministries, but in homes, families, and communities.

INTRODUCTION

Education serves as the foundation for national development, social cohesion, and the empowerment of future generations. In Mauritius, as in many countries, the education system stands at a critical juncture where traditional practices must evolve to meet the challenges of a dynamic and interconnected world. The complexity of today's educational landscape demands thoughtful, inclusive, and forward-looking reforms that consider not only academic performance but also emotional well-being, equity, innovation, and global competitiveness. This report by the ILMA Foundation is a comprehensive response to the Ministry of Education and Human Resource's invitation for proposals ahead of *les Assises de l'Éducation* (15–17 April 2025). It seeks to address key challenges in the education sector while offering strategic, evidence-based recommendations tailored to the Mauritian context. Our approach is rooted in the belief that education must be holistic, values-based, and community-driven—integrating academic excellence with character formation, emotional intelligence, and responsible citizenship.

Drawing upon international case studies, peer-reviewed research, and policy innovations from regions such as the UK, Singapore, Malaysia, Africa, and the United States, this report aims to inspire bold yet contextually appropriate action. Our proposals are framed with a strong emphasis on cultural sensitivity, inclusivity, and long-term sustainability.

The report explores a range of interlinked themes and challenges: the impact of parenting on youth development; the need to modernize curricula through project-based and inclusive pedagogies; the importance of regulating and supporting homeschooling; the critical role of teacher training and psychological well-being; and the necessity of providing scientifically accurate, age-appropriate sex education. Each recommendation is supported by real-world case studies and reflects international best practices adapted to local realities.

One of the central conclusions of this report is that sustainable educational reform cannot be achieved without the meaningful involvement of parents and community leaders. The current lack of a national data framework also hinders evidence-based policy-making, underscoring the urgent need for coordinated monitoring and evaluation mechanisms across schools. Recommendations include the creation of a National Digital Learning Resource Centre, school-based psychological services, inclusive education infrastructure, and a Continuous Professional Development framework for teachers. For a thematic breakdown of the proposals and global comparisons, please refer to **Appendix 1**.

While the Ministry's initiative to gather input through national consultations is commendable, it is important to note that the current methodology appears heavily driven by perceptions and qualitative feedback. To build a truly transformative and future-ready education system, Mauritius must ground its reforms in robust, data-driven decision-making. This means developing a national framework for data collection that includes wide-reaching, methodologically sound surveys of parents, teachers, and students. We must go beyond

anecdotal evidence to understand the specific needs, concerns, and realities faced by stakeholders across the country. Furthermore, there is a need for comprehensive comparative analysis—not only to identify successful international education models, but also to learn from those that failed and why. In addition to educational reforms, legislative modernization is essential, especially regarding child protection in the digital age. As internet access expands rapidly among youth, updated laws and policies must address online safety, data privacy, and digital literacy to safeguard children's well-being. In short, lasting reform will require more than ideas—it will require evidence, accountability, and a clear legal framework that supports both innovation and child rights in a fast-evolving educational landscape.

Ultimately, the goal is not only to identify what works abroad but to envision what will work best for Mauritius—now and for generations to come. This document is offered as a tool for policymakers, educators, parents, and civil society to build an education system that reflects the nation's values while preparing its youth for the demands of the 21st century.