

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790397703321
Titolo	Towards successful schooling // edited by Hugh Lauder and Cathy Wylie
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Abingdon, Oxon : , : Routledge, , 2012
ISBN	1-136-46999-0 1-280-68627-8 9786613663214 1-136-47000-X 0-203-12857-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (253 p.)
Collana	Routledge library editions. Education ; ; v. 185
Altri autori (Persone)	LauderHugh <1948-> WylieCathy
Disciplina	370.19/0993
Soggetti	Education and state - New Zealand Education - Social aspects - New Zealand
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	First published in 1990 by Falmer Press.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	TOWARDS SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLING; Copyright; Towards Successful Schooling; Copyright; Contents; Foreword; Glossary; Chapter 1 Citizens or Consumers? The Politics of Educational Reform: An Introduction; Chapter 2 Education and the Role of the State: Devolution and Control Post-Picot; Chapter 3 Education, Democracy and the Crisis of the Welfare State; Chapter 4 Power to the People? The Great Education Reform Act and Tomorrow's Schools: A Critical and Comparative Perspective; Chapter 5 The Politics of Reforming Maori Education: The Transforming Potential of Kura Kaupapa Maori Chapter 6 'I Just Wanna Decent Job', Working Class Girls' Education: Perspectives and Policy IssuesChapter 7 Notes on the Schooling of the English Working Class: What Lessons for New Zealand? A Comparative Briefing Paper; Chapter 8 The Politics of Curriculum Innovation; Chapter 9 Towards Pluralism and Democracy: The Administration of an Inner City School; Chapter 10 Public Examinations and the Structuring of Inequality: A Case Study; Chapter 11 Illiteracy, Improper Literacy and the Development of an Underclass; Chapter 12 Towards an Alternative

Transition Education Policy

Chapter 13 Trade Union Education and Democracy Chapter 14 Work and Education; Notes on Contributors; Index

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**Sommario/riassunto**

The editors have compiled this critical and comparative study of changes which took place in the New Zealand education system in the second half of the twentieth century. For other Western societies who have felt the impact of New Right policies the New Zealand case is interesting because it provides some indication of how policies of decentralization in education might be used to develop egalitarian and democratic educational policies. In recent years there have been major changes to educational systems in the Western world. Often these changes have been justified by reference to su

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