School catchment area and regional development

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At a time when France is moving towards doing away with the school catchment area, and when parents will be able to choose what school their children go to on the “education market”, we have attempted to answer a certain number of questions. What is the attitude of families with respect to the school catchment area? Does school amplify or reduce urban segregation? What are the links between available training and the region? How do urban policies and educational policies interact? Is there room for educational planning within regional planning?

Based on recent research work, this issue initially presents the concepts of sectoring and choice of school from a French and international standpoint. It next explores the disparities in schooling and the processes of ranking schools. The third section looks at the educational and residential strategies of families when choosing a school for their children. The fourth part considers the question of town and country planning and questions the links between urban policies and educational policies. Various proposals for modifying the school catchment area are brought up in the conclusion.

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