

Essential conditions to support the implementation of teaching practices that inspire student learning

This learning guide is designed for use by school leaders, professional learning communities, or as a self-paced study. The guide is based on video clips of two Alberta schools focused on their two year journey to re-conceptualize teaching and learning.

Research and evidence

Current research, evidence, and lessons learned inform implementation decisions

Successful implementation of your plan to build teaching practices that inspire student learning is possible when education stakeholders share responsibility to address these essential conditions within a culture of learning:

Shared vision

Leadership

● Research and evidence

Resources

Teacher professional growth

Time

Community engagement

Learning guides and videos for each essential condition can be found at: www.essentialconditions.ca



Key ideas

The two key pieces of research that are guiding current educational decision making in the province are the Inspiring Education consultations and the research report *From Knowledge to Action: Shaping the Future of Curriculum Development in Alberta*. As schools implement the intent of Inspiring Education, new research, school-based data (both qualitative and quantitative) and lessons learned will need to be gathered and analyzed to inform ongoing decision making.



What Albertans are saying ...

Inspiring Education: A Dialogue with Albertans was an opportunity for thousands of Albertans to express their hopes, dreams and aspirations for our children's education. Here is an example of what was said about the importance of **research and evidence**.

"The success of the education system has often been reflected in learner assessments, and other measures such as the use of research, collaboration and professional development. However, new processes are required to continuously evaluate whether the education system is "living" the vision of Albertans: that is, ensuring the policy shifts, guiding principles and governance structures are yielding the desired results."

— Inspiring Education, page 37

"Educators concede that combining quantitative and qualitative research with what is learned from practice provides powerful information about curriculum change and renewal." — From Knowledge to Action: Shaping the Future of Curriculum Development in Alberta, page 4



What Alberta schools are saying ...

Leaders and staff from two Alberta K-9 schools used the opportunity of opening a new school to create a culture of learning that truly focused on inspiring all learners through innovative and thoughtful teaching and learning practices. View the video clip to hear their reflections on this rewarding and challenging journey.



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MICHAEL STREMBITSKY SCHOOL



Research and evidence

Stakeholders share an understanding of and commitment to the intended outcomes






Your opportunity to share...

As you plan for implementation, think about:

- How would your team use the following questions to guide and evaluate planning?
- How did the school teams in the video address these questions? What insights might be helpful to your staff?
- What additional questions need to be asked?


Guiding Questions

How will you address this essential condition?

-  What data, including current research, evidence and lessons learned, is being collaboratively and systematically collected, and analyzed for the benefit of all learners?
-  How is data being used to inform implementation planning and evaluation at the classroom, school, jurisdiction, school board, and provincial levels?
-  How is data being shared among stakeholders?
-  How is expertise being developed in terms of effective uses of data to support implementation?
-  Other questions for your context?








Plans

What strategies, procedures and/or processes will you use to address this essential condition?



Outcomes

What will you accept as evidence that this essential condition is being addressed?

-  Have you identified existing data, current research, evidence and lessons learned that can be analyzed for current trends and implications?
-  Data sources may include, but are not limited to environmental scans, consultations, interviews, needs assessments, surveys, literature reviews, case studies, and student data.
-  Have you identified the personnel who will be responsible for managing (i.e., collecting, analyzing and disseminating) data?
-  Has the data been routinely and regularly shared among stakeholders?
-  Are decisions about implementation informed by current research and supported by evidence and lessons learned?
-  Are evidence, research and lessons learned clearly referenced in implementation plans?
-  What other evidence would you accept for your context?

Supporting research, literature and resources:

- Alberta Education
 - From Knowledge to Action: Shaping the Future of Curriculum Development in Alberta
 - Inspiring Education
 - Ministerial Order on Student Learning (#001/2013)
- A Guide to Support Implementation: Essential Conditions
- Cross-Curricular Competencies

