

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.

Teacher professional growth

Teacher knowledge, skills and attributes are enhanced through ongoing professional learning

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

Professional growth is a collaborative activity that requires deep conversations in order to create common understandings of teaching and learning approaches.



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 **teacher professional growth**.

"Learners in particular told us that teachers need to be innovative, passionate and positive about teaching. These qualities could be nurtured through a variety of policies and practices, including a less restrictive curriculum, meaningful professional development, and structures that allow regular exchange of ideas and best practices." – Inspiring Education, page 7



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.



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MICHAEL
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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?

- How are the needs of the teacher, school, system and province being addressed through professional learning?
- How are current research, evidence and lessons learned informing professional growth planning and the design of professional learning opportunities?
- How are educators using self-assessment to inform their professional growth planning?
- What plans are in place to support ongoing career-long professional learning?
- How are curriculum, instruction and assessment integrated in the design of professional learning opportunities?
- How does participation in professional learning enhance professional practice?
- How are educators collaborating to support their professional growth?
- 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?

- Are effective teacher mentorship and coaching practices in place?
- Is risk-taking and innovation evident among educators, instructional leaders and the school board?
- Are promising practices documented and shared?
- Are coordinated, collaborative and comprehensive professional learning plans in place to support implementation? Are self-identified professional learning needs and preferences of participants being met?
- Do teachers have access to and are they participating in a variety of learning opportunities that address their needs and preferences? Are teachers reflecting on how their professional learning experiences are influencing their professional practice?
- Are teachers engaging in ongoing career-long professional growth?
- What other evidence would you accept for your context?



Supporting research, literature and resources:

- Alberta Education
 - Inspiring Education
 - Ministerial Order on Student Learning (#001/2013)
- A Guide to Support Implementation: Essential Conditions
- Cross-Curricular Competencies



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www.arpdc.ab.ca