

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.

Shared vision

Stakeholders share an understanding of and commitment to the intended outcomes

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 vision for education, as outlined in *Inspiring Education*, has been summarized as “the Three E’s” of education for the 21st Century: an **Engaged Thinker, Ethical Citizen** with an **Entrepreneurial Spirit**. School staff and stakeholders are encouraged to collaboratively review the *Inspiring Education* document and explore how this vision connects to their own context. A shared vision informs implementation planning and decisions.

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 **shared vision**.

“Inspiring Education is transformational in nature. It provides direction for new practices, institutional arrangements and human interactions. It recognizes that technology, community partnerships, and post-secondary institutions can enable interactions between learners, experts, advisors and mentors, wherever they may be. In so doing, Inspiring Education transforms the way we think about possible learning experiences and the way we address the learning needs of tomorrow.”

– Inspiring Education, page 14

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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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 is the shared vision collaboratively developed with and endorsed by stakeholders?
- How is the shared vision articulated and communicated with stakeholders?
- How is the shared vision evident in the implementation plan?
- What evidence exists that the learning community is "living" the shared vision for all learners?
- What process is used to facilitate ongoing review of the shared vision by stakeholders?
- Other questions for your context?

Plans

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

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Outcomes

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

- Does a strong, clearly articulated vision exist and does this vision reflect current research, as well as stakeholders' priorities, needs and contexts?
- Do stakeholders have a sense of ownership in the development of the vision? Do stakeholders support and are able to articulate the vision? Do stakeholders endorse the vision statement?
- Do your regular stakeholder communications make reference to the vision, as well as describe how the vision has been implemented?
- Does your vision inform all implementation decisions? Does your qualitative and quantitative evidence demonstrate how implementation decisions are aligned with the vision?
- Is your vision periodically reviewed and revised, as required?
- 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



Alberta Regional Consortia
www.arpdc.ab.ca