



Re-Thinking High School

Moving from 'Best Practice' to 'Next Practice'
January 18, 2012 Provincial On-line Symposium

"Guided Inquiry" Conversation Guide

We invite you to use this conversation guide along with this presentation to engage in a dialogue about innovative high school practices. This conversation about "guided inquiry" is an attempt to provide structure and meaning to a constructivist approach to learning.

Introduction:

Amidst the buzz that exists around the notion of educational transformation to promote "21st century Learning" is a widespread recognition that education must promote authentic inquiry by students. Progress toward pedagogical practices that acknowledge the realities of human learning requires a "paradigm shift" in schools as organizations and education as an institution. To achieve this shift we must carefully consider our practices as educators and the realities of societal context in which they take place. In essence we must ask, ***"How can we move from a traditional model in which time is constant and student learning is variable, to one in which learning is constant and the time provided to achieve outcomes is variable?"*** Our aim is to share our attempt to address this question and to encourage others to similarly "Re-Think" their own practice.

Preview this webinar and reflect on the following questions.

- How have traditional practices limited the opportunity to differentiate for students as individuals?
- If we think of inquiry as an overarching framework instead of as an activity, how might this guide us in differentiating for individual learners?
- What can we do differently now, within our current reality, to better promote positive pedagogical relationships, to ensure learning is relevant for students, and to ensure that understandings of curricular outcomes are fully achieved?
- What might be some of your next steps to achieve these changes?
- What would be the innovative practice that you could share from your school?
- What else do you want to do/consider?

High school completion is everybody's business, including teachers, schools, parents, communities, students, jurisdictions and the ministry. While there is no silver bullet, no easy answer to removing the barriers that prevent students from completing high school, we know that approaches that are innovative, collaborative, comprehensive, and consider the local context are showing promise.

Consider using this recording with parents and/or students. What might be some outcomes you would highlight as you consider these different audiences?



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<p>As you listened, what themes emerged?</p>		<p>What intrigued you about what the presenters said?</p>
	<p>How have traditional practices limited the opportunity to differentiate for students as individuals? If we think of inquiry as an overarching framework how might it guide us in differentiating for individual learners? What can we do differently now to better promote relationships, to ensure learning is relevant, and that understandings of curricular outcomes are fully achieved?</p>	
<p>What are the implications for our school? What might be some of our next steps?</p>		<p>What could be an innovative practice that we could share from our school? What else do we want to do?</p>

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