



Engaged students  
High levels of achievement  
Quality teaching

## Conversation Guide

## Rethinking High School: Intentional Conversations Around Moving Forward With High School Redesign

### Balancing Pedagogy and Structure

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Grades 7-12, 170 Students, Phase 1

How does a focus on pedagogical practices influence and transform school structures and program models for student learning.

We invite you to use this conversation guide along with this presentation to engage in a dialogue about innovative high school practice.

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

*Moving Forward with High School Redesign is about more than simply shifting a timetable. It's about shifting mindsets. The shift in mindset to a focus on student-centered learning happens as a number of key practices are put in place, including personalizing learning, intentionally developing meaningful relationships, creating rigorous and relevant learning opportunities, and supporting mastery learning. Schools that are focused on innovative, collaborative, comprehensive, and meaningful learning opportunities, are showing evidence of increasing student engagement and success.*

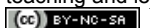
### Key Understandings:

- Often the structures we put in place in schools limit what we can do pedagogically.
- High School Design is not about flex blocks, teacher advisory, etc. It is about looking at everything we do in schools and asking what is the value in doing things the way we do. It is about putting students front and center.
- Pedagogy is the way(s) we move students towards learning goals. Structures are the paths we move them along. They need to align and work together.
- If we want students to be engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit, we need to provide them with opportunities to develop these skills and attitudes in school.
- Every school needs to find what structures and approaches work for it. Start with what makes sense in your context

### Questions for Discussion:

1. What were some of the school structures and practices that changed at St. Francis of Assisi as a result of a focus on pedagogy, teacher leadership and more student centered approaches?
2. How does intentional collaboration and professional learning at your site make a difference in student learning?
3. What instructional approaches or practices increase student engagement within your school community?

**Acknowledgement:** This guide was developed by the Central Alberta Regional Consortium and funded through a grant from Alberta Education to support implementation. It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons license.



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