



Engaged students
High levels of achievement
Quality teaching

Conversation Guide

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

High School Redesign Strategies that Support Student Learning in a Large School

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1,800 Students, Phase 3

Implementing school wide collaborative structures and practices to bring about systemic changes that support student learning in a large school community.

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.

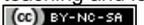
Key Understandings:

- Be thoughtful and spend time preparing staff, students, and parents for change.
- Clearly communicate your vision and beliefs.
- Look for data (accountability reports, provincial, district, and staff surveys) to help decide what changes should be made and then use data to measure the success of the change. Sometimes you have to create the instruments to get the answers you are looking for.
- Let staff members that are affected by any changes have input on the need for change and involve them in the design of the change.
- As a leader you should have a clear understanding of what you are willing to let people have a say on and what you are not.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What processes have been implemented to create a common vision towards more student centered approaches at your school?
2. What structures have been implemented to support *collaboration, professional learning and teacher leadership* at your site?
3. What changes in culture have resulted within your school community from school wide changes in pedagogy and policies pertaining to student learning?
4. What role has data collection, communication and dialogue played with students and the community in supporting large scale change at your school?
5. What implementation challenges have been encountered at your school? How were these challenges addressed?

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