

This learning guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders or as a self-paced study to explore how technology can support student success.

How can educators help parents understand educational change?

This conversation guide is intended to be used after viewing the video clip, **How can educators help their parent communities understand changes in education?**



General synopsis

In this brief video, author and researcher Dr. Dave Edyburn talks about how educators can help parents understand changes in education.

Key understandings

- Helping parents understand changes in education is not a role that schools have historically taken on.
- There is a new challenge for schools to discern what changes are going to take place and engage parents in a conversation about those changes.
- By enlisting parents in a conversation about change, educators are not only more likely to get support, they will get input.
- Educators and parents have students' best interest at heart but may not have the same vision for the future.
- Parents may need to understand that introducing new technologies does not mean that the quality of instruction in schools will diminish.
- Educators are preparing students for a future that none of us can see. Fear of the unknown is a major issue, particularly around issues of rapid change.

Questions for reflection and discussion

- Which statement did you find most surprising or engaging? Why?
- What are the consequences of not engaging the community in a conversation about changes in education? What recent examples in the media have illustrated what happens when these conversations don't take place?
- What are some of the challenges in engaging parents in a conversation about changes in education?
- How can educators navigate the dynamic tension between having a vision for the future and acknowledging that we are preparing students for a future none of us can see?
- How might a shared vision for the future address the issue of fear of the unknown? How might it address concerns about lowering the quality of instruction in schools?

Link to the *Learning and Technology Policy Framework*



<http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/policyframework/policy4.aspx>

Acknowledgement:

This guide was developed through a collaboration between Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium and Alberta Education. It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons licence. 