

Foundational Principles for High School Redesign

A VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE

Flexible Learning Environments

This video is one of a series that presents the foundational principles of high school redesign in action. The schools showcased in these videos have been focused on redesign for five or more years and each video represents one way of implementing a foundational principle. It is important to keep in mind that there can be many ways to implement each principle.

As you view this series of videos, consider what you would want each foundational principle to look like in your school in five years. What would you want your students to say about the role each principle played in their success? What would you want your school's story to be?

Key understandings

- Flexible learning environments are about more than shifting a timetable.
- A clear vision, goal and purpose are critical and need to be communicated clearly to all stakeholders.
- Flexible learning environments shift the conversations teachers have with students.
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“There is a certain amount of greater responsibility that comes on me as a student, but it's teaching me those independent and proactive skills I am going to need later on in life.”

Conversation starters

How does this video affirm or challenge your understanding of the link between time and learning?

What is the connection between flexible learning environments and personalization?

What is the connection between flexible learning environments and mastery learning?

How could you use flexible learning environments in your school to turn autonomy for learning over to students?

In your school, how have you seen students take ownership and self-direction for their learning?

If someone were to film a video of flexible learning coming to life in your school, what story would the video tell?

Discuss the statement “Education isn't just about the student, it needs to be a partnership, it needs to be all stakeholders.”

Related Resources

Alberta Regional Consortia:
Moving Forward with High School Redesign
www.abhsredesign.ca

21st Century Learning Environments at Eanes ISD
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_x4OLsfReQ

Edutopia
www.edutopia.org

www.education.alberta.ca/highschoolcompletion