

Foundational Principles for High School Redesign

A VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE

Rigorous Relevant Curriculum

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

- Rigorous and relevant learning experiences are directly applicable to students' lives.
- Students use skills including active learning, problem solving, and reasoning to demonstrate their understanding of the learning outcomes.
- Rigorous and relevant curriculum often requires students to make connections between disciplines.
- Assignments focus on the application of concepts and skills in a real-world context.
- Teaching materials and assessment strategies are aligned with the curriculum's rigour and relevance. Teachers support and encourage students to meet the high standards set for them.

Related Resources

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

Five Keys to Rigorous Project-Based Learning
<http://www.edutopia.org/video/five-keys-rigorous-project-based-learning>

Edutopia
www.edutopia.org



www.education.alberta.ca/highschoolcompletion

Conversation starters

To what extent does this video affirm or challenge your understanding of the importance of creating rigorous and relevant learning experiences for students?

To what extent are rigorous and relevant curriculum and increased student engagement connected?

To what extent is rigorous and relevant curriculum connected to personalization?

How does community involvement support rigorous and relevant learning experiences for students? In your experience, to what extent is the community involved in the educational experiences of the students in your school?

Discuss the statement "there are also a lot of opportunities that are bigger than us and we need to provide avenues and access to those things for our student by bringing people in."

"The most important thing about the rigorous and relevant curriculum is for our teachers to look at the curriculum through the eyes of the students."