

ADMinsight

A fact sheet for principals & vice-principals that focuses on leadership in public education

Question

“How can I best support my staff and school with the implementation of curricular changes?”

Key Considerations

Examination

Work with your staff members to outline the key differences and similarities between the previous curriculum and the new curriculum.

Make Connections

Consider how the current practises and approaches within the school align with the expectations of the new curriculum.

Network

Connect with your local and provincial associations to better understand the approaches that districts are taking to curriculum implementation. Are there approaches to implementation that can be used in your school?

Involve all staff members

Support staff play a critical role in the success of students and the implementation of the curriculum. Keep them apprised of the key changes.



Curriculum Implementation

School leaders contribute in many ways to the successful implementation of any curriculum. Principals and vice-principals often rely on a multifaceted approach to implementation and school vision as opposed to curricular implementation in and of itself.

Reviewing Vision and Values

School leaders strive to create collective visions that embody current thinking about pedagogy. Curriculum implementation is more effective when it is linked with the development or review of a school's vision and values. Learning does not begin and end in the classroom, so it is important for staff members to understand the broader context of curriculum implementation. A starting point for staff development is to define the shared values important to your teaching staff and connect those values to the curriculum. School leaders should be viewed as lead learners within their schools when it comes to curriculum implementation.

Collaborative Inquiry

Principals can provide support to their staff members by creating opportunities for the staff to explore and examine the structure of the new curriculum together. This approach can centre on several key questions as a staff;



The Need for Curricular Reform

- The stand and deliver model of teaching and learning is increasingly incompatible with today's youth.
- Today, students come with greater learning challenges than ever before, and the trend shows no sign of reversing (Evans, 2004). The changing student needs demand that teachers expand their role beyond providers of content, to become facilitators, guides, and coordinators of learning.
- Both societal and technological changes are rapidly changing our world and schools. Today we live in a world of instantaneous information to which our students have round the clock access. Schools need to better prepare children for our explosive knowledge economy and curricular change can be the vehicle for better meeting student needs.

1. How are the contents of the revised curriculum organized and how does that impact the implementation?
2. What are the gaps, if any, in the documentation and resources provided and how will we address those gaps?
3. How will this curricular change affect our assessment and reporting practises?

Contextualizing Change

Curriculum implementation can be used to address other outstanding needs within the school. School leaders can lead their staff members through a process that connects the implementation of the curriculum to other school priorities. Linking curricular change to other developing school priorities models the belief that a changing curriculum can play a significant role in addressing current student achievement and school culture issues within the school.

Linking Implementation to Staff Development

Illustrating the connection between the implementation of a new curriculum and staff learning is vitally important to ensure that teachers feel well prepared to engage in the new curriculum. Developing collaborative curricular teams that have the time and space to formulate a cohesive plan of implementation can ensure that the implementation is successful and can positively influence the professional learning for all staff members.

REFERENCES

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