

Technology and Inclusion

TRACY HUMPHREYS, FOUNDER AND CHAIR, BCEDACCESS SOCIETY

About BCEdAccess

Who We Are

The BCEdAccess Society is an entirely volunteer-run organization serving families of students with disabilities and complex learners all over the province of British Columbia. Our parent support group has nearly 3500 members and stories shared on our private discussion board daily illustrate the depth of the challenges families face in pursuing equitable access to education in BC schools.


Our Constitution and Purpose states:

“We champion and support children and youth who have disabilities and who are complex learners to reach their full potential in BC education, and in all aspects of their lives. This is achieved through supporting families, sharing information, providing education to families, allies, professionals and students, providing community engagement and awareness, and other activities to promote equitable access to education and inclusion for all.”

Discuss the video

What do we hear from parents?

- Denial of tech – can't get FM systems, won't allow students to use AAC
- Tech is always outdated
- Access to tech is hard and still problematic
- There's no central keeper of knowledge around tech at a school or in the district, usually
- There's no supports to learn how to use the tech for parents, especially a bigger issue now with Covid but always important

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- What's it like as a family to try to access support?
 - Psych eds, Max's story, written output
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How would you approach support for a classroom?

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- Advocacy pieces –
 - what can families do, why is it hard for them
 - what can teachers do, why is it hard for them
 - Parents don't know what they don't know so they look to you to help and communicate
 - Students – engage with them, talk to them!
Wealth of knowledge about what works for them, about tech, about what might work for their peers



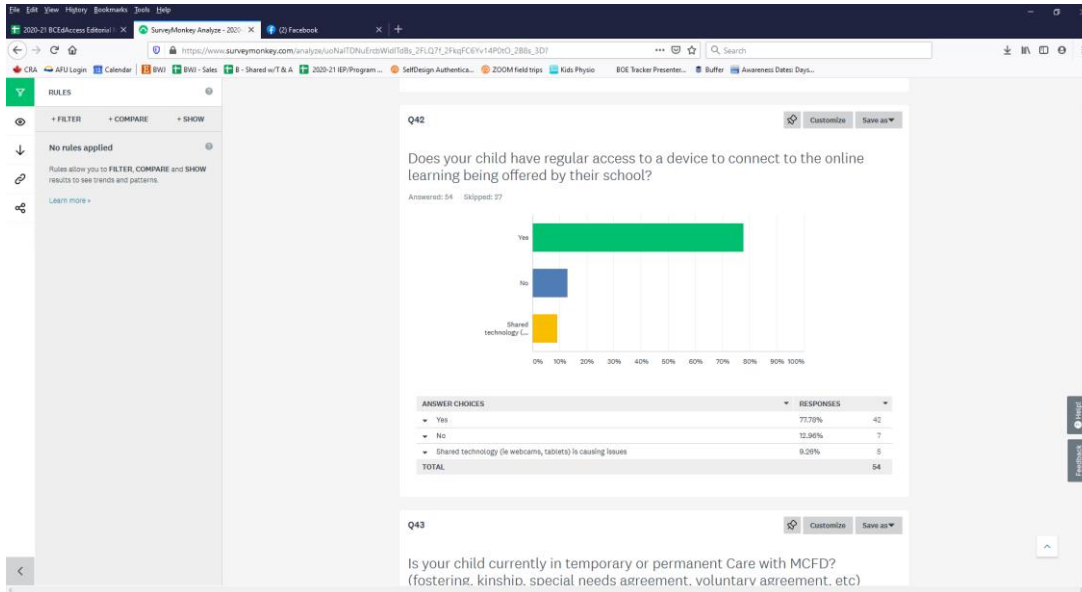
Using technology that honours their strengths and challenges.

How can you find out what a student needs?

Where do you start?

1. Read IEP
2. Ask family
3. Ask student!
4. What do you have available? What can you get? What will you need to advocate for?

Exclusion Tracker



- Exclusion – lack of tech leads to exclusion in class, during remote learning, in all environments

Some things to check out

- <https://unitedforcommunicationchoice.org/damon-kirsebom-when-people-see-me-typing/851/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwV2WvWHsbw>
- SpellX
- <https://bcedaccess.com/2020/02/13/advocacy-and-conflict-resolution-for-students-with-disabilities-in-bc-education-a-rights-based-primer/>
- <http://eaststandardsbc.ca/>

Final thoughts, and contact information!

- Reminder that tech is not the answer for all students.
- During Covid that divide has become really apparent.
- Some students cannot connect remotely and through tech – it's a tool in your toolbox.
- Our website: [Bcedaccess.com](https://bcedaccess.com)
- Please feel free to reach out any time, I'm always happy to connect:
tracy@bcedaccess.com
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube @BCEdAccess
- If you have a child or youth with a disability or who is a complex learner, or you know someone who does, you or they can join us in this private group:
facebook.com/groups/BCEdAccess