

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.”

What do we hear from parents?

- Denial of tech
- Outdated
- Access still a problem
- Knowledge keeping
- No training support

Accessing support for our children

Designations

Psychoeducational assessments

Personal story

What is ableism?

Ableism is the discrimination of and social prejudice against people with disabilities, based on the belief that typical abilities are superior.

At its heart, ableism is rooted in the assumption that disabled people require 'fixing' and defines people by their disability.

Like racism and sexism, ableism classifies entire groups of people as 'less than,' and includes harmful stereotypes, misconceptions, and generalizations of people with disabilities.

What are some examples of ableism?

- As a family when trying to justify accessing tech support:
 - are they “disabled” enough?
- Using tech with the goal of “independence or resiliency” to stop using the tech.
 - some will need it forever.
 - Tech can be a tool to allow independence. It is the wheelchair. The Glasses. The ramp.
- How do the other students perceive the child who is using the tech?



Using technology honours their strengths and challenges.

Can you give examples of how tech can be used to support students in your classroom?

Where can you start to find out what kinds of supports a student needs?

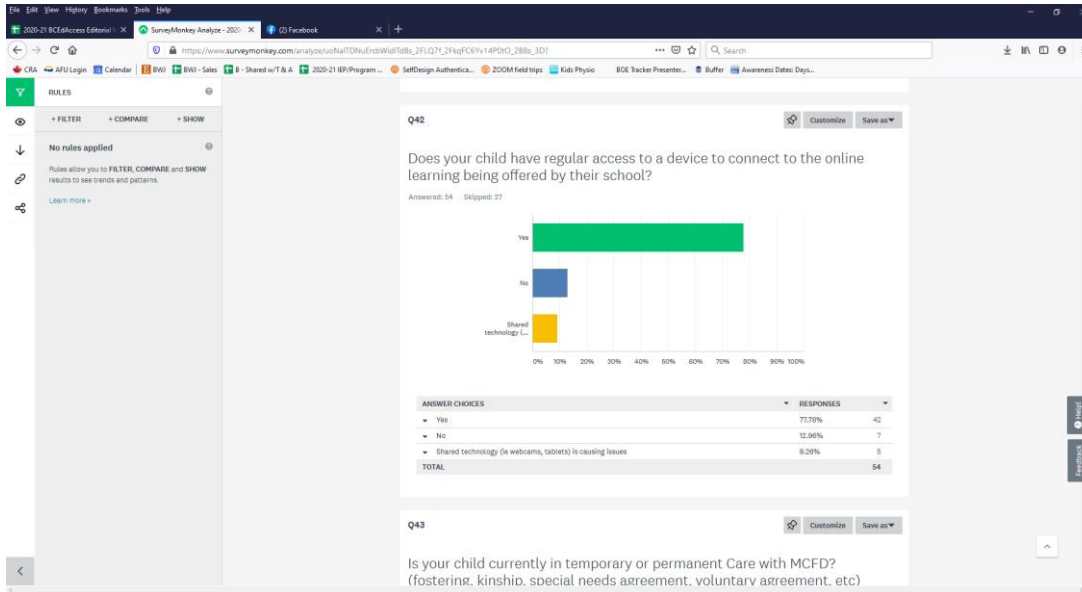
Where do you start?

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

Advocacy

- What can families do, why is it hard for them?
- What can teachers do, why is it hard for them?

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/> (about 4 minutes)
- <https://www.facebook.com/715087393/videos/602424674334108/> (about 1 minute)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwV2WvWHsbw> (about 20 minutes)
- SpellIX
- <https://bcedaccess.com/2020/02/13/advocacy-and-conflict-resolution-for-students-with-disabilities-in-bc-education-a-rights-based-primer/>
- <http://eaststandardsbc.ca/>
- <https://bcecta.weebly.com/>
- <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, TikTok 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

Discussion Questions

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What did you learn from Damon's video about presuming competence? Did it change your ideas about supporting students in the future? How?

What can you do to help students understand that some students will be using different tools and technology than them?

What do you think you'll do in your classroom to foster an inclusive environment?

What are the benefits of working collaboratively and proactively with parents/guardians?