

Technology and Inclusion

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Thinking about your role in the exercise, how did it make you feel?

63 responses



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.

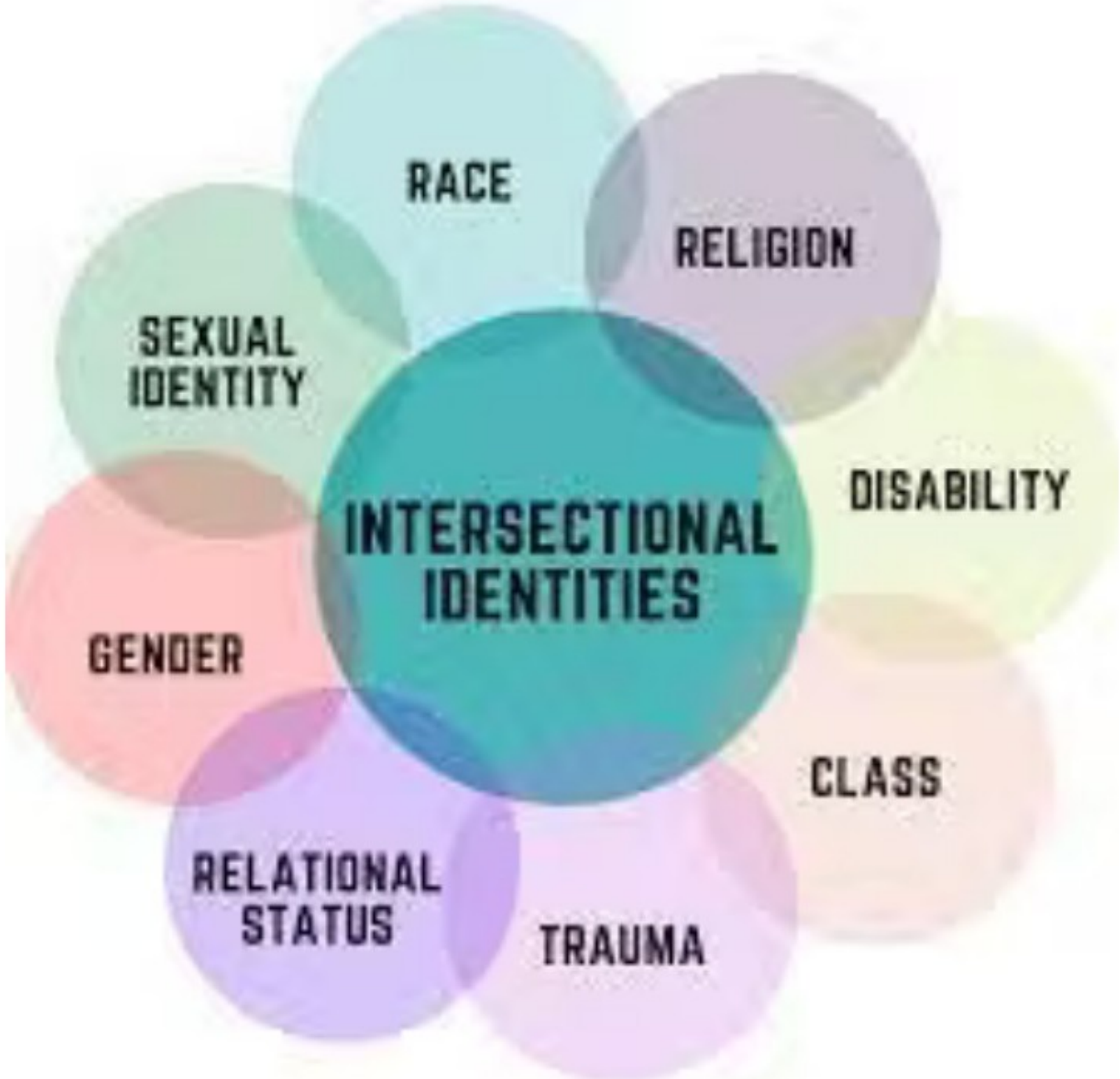
Our Constitution and Purpose states:

“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.”

Who are you?

- Groups of 3
- 3 minutes
- Share an important personal identity.
- How does it impact your day to day experiences in the world?
- Does it connect to your interest in teaching?
- Come back and share a learning





Accessing support for our children

Designations

Psychoeducational and other assessments

Personal story



What are some examples of technology that can support students in the classroom?

Speech to text

Dictation

translator

Read&Write

Doc cams

Visualization

EA

Translators



What are some examples of technology that can support students in the classroom?

Microphones

images/videos

AI note taker

Closed captions

Automatic subtitles, like the ones being used now.

Speech to text

Speech to text

Closed captionAI reading voice

What are some examples of technology that can support students in the classroom?

Spell check to help with spelling when typing

noise cancelling headphones

Captions on videos, transcription tools, visual/auditory aids, scribing programs, AAC

speechify

Simulations

translators

Soundfield

Document camera

What are some examples of technology that can support students in the classroom?

I just realized it says technology - EA is not a technology. Sorry...

Communication Boards

Speech to Text

Trascriptions

Hearing support systems

Recording devices

Tablets

Braille typing machine

What are some examples of technology that can support students in the classroom?

Hearing aids connected to teacher's microphone

interactive note documents

Visual schedules

Timers

chat

Guide students and families to safely using new technologies

student conferencing

Common challenges

- **Lack of Access:** Families may not have devices or reliable internet; schools may lack funding.
- **Lack of Support:** Families or teachers may feel unprepared or overwhelmed.
- **Resistance to Change:** Hesitation from stakeholders due to unfamiliarity or skepticism.
- **Privacy Concerns:** Worries about data security.
- **Technology as a Distraction:** Perceptions of misuse, including cell phone debates.

Some solutions

- Advocate for funding, loaner programs, and grants.
- Provide training for families and teachers.
- Use tools that promote independence and fit IEP goals.
- Ensure compliance with privacy laws
- Write assistive cell phone use into IEPs for clarity.
- Normalize assistive tech and make accessible to all

Navigating Emerging Technologies

Opportunities:

Bridges gaps in learning, communication, and independence.
Tools like AI, gamified apps, and assistive tech offer exciting possibilities.

Concerns:

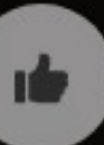
Privacy, data safety, and bias in technology design.
Balancing reliance on tech with meaningful interaction.
Digital divide and capacity at home.

Parent-Teacher Collaboration:

Build confidence through clear communication and guidance.
Share tools, explain their purpose, and address questions.
Advocate for equitable access.

Key Question:

How can we ensure technology becomes a bridge to equity and opportunity?



How can teachers, parents, and schools work together to ensure technology becomes a bridge to opportunity rather than a barrier?

Ensure that there is clear understanding of the limits of technology

Communication

Education

Make use of open source technology and databases

Communication,
communication,
communication

conversations &
communication about the
pros & cons of specific tech

compassion

Meaningful use

How can teachers, parents, and schools work together to ensure technology becomes a bridge to opportunity rather than a barrier?

Help develop media literacy for both students and parents

Strive for equity, think critically before implementing

Ask learners how they feel their needs would best be served by technology and co-develop strategies with them

Build a common understanding of how tech will be used in the classroom

Conferencing through school counselor and support staff with parents and students

Set clear rules and expectations

Have parents talk with their kids about their expectations of their technology in the classroom (i.e. if the kid doesn't need a phone for accessibility use, don't use it)

Work together to understand the technology and how it would benefit the student

How can teachers, parents, and schools work together to ensure technology becomes a bridge to opportunity rather than a barrier?

Ensure both sides are educated on technology about what it is and how it supports students

3D printing for stim tools and accessibility aids

understanding in all parties

provide funding to families so that they can afford the tech they need. only require tech that everyone can afford/be provided

Purposeful and well defined

Make better forms! Parents need to fill out so many forms and not everyone has computer literacy skills.,etc...

Provide training nights for parents, teachers, and students when there is a new technology introduced.

Educate students on the dangers of tech but not denying them from using it

How can teachers, parents, and schools work together to ensure technology becomes a bridge to opportunity rather than a barrier?

Waiting for technology to be trialed by the general public and laws passed before bringing it into the classroom

Try to use technology that will last and is proven to work versus new, flashy kit

Use tech not as the object of the learning but as a tool to connect learning to the community

Respect political barriers for families who are skeptical of new technologies

Sincerity

Develop a technology plan at the beginning of the year and send it out to parents, inviting feedback.

make sure there are no financial barriers if possible

Ableism and other systems of oppression

Ableism: a set of beliefs or practices that devalue and discriminate against people with physical, intellectual, or psychiatric disabilities and often rests on the assumption that disabled people need to be 'fixed' in one form or the other.

Intersectionality: The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

Racism: Prejudice plus power

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

Some examples of ableism

- Is the student "disabled enough"?
- Assuming the goal is to be independent of the use of technology
- Negative perceptions from other students and adults

EXCLUSION TRACKER

An initiative by BCEdAccess that shows that children with designations are being excluded from school and therefore do not have equitable access to an education.

- <https://bcedaccess.com/exclusion-tracker/>

Where can you start to find out what students are going through and the kinds of supports a student needs?

IEP!

Talk to the parents.

IEP MEETINGS

Councillor

Talking to families and past teachers

Their parents

Talk to the Student

talk to them and their case worker/support people/parents

Where can you start to find out what students are going through and the kinds of supports a student needs?

Designations on attendance sheets

student conferencing

Talk to other teachers

Ask the student

Talk to other teachers, admin, counselling staff, parents, and the learners

Ask learning support teacher if student accesses those services

welcome-survey (whatever students want to offer up in this they can but don't have to)

Class survey

Where can you start to find out what students are going through and the kinds of supports a student needs?

Review the exclusion tracker reports

Keep your classroom as safe as possible and note which learners respond well to that (low sensory rooms!)

check-in surveys

Talk to the student about their needs, open communication

connect w/ parents if possible

welcome email--add some specific examples and mention your intentions around creating a safe classroom

→ Read the IEP



- Ask family
- Ask student!
- Ask other students if appropriate

How can you use technology to build an inclusive classroom environment?

Provide tech to all students, so complex learners don't feel singled out

Giving access to all students

UDL

Find the best resources for specific needs

Ensure that IEPs are followed and accommodated

Ensure it is equitable

scaffold

Model accessibility practices

How can you use technology to build an inclusive classroom environment?

During first week, include tech expectations and considerations as part of classroom guidelines construction

Be open to multiple forms of presentation and project ideas using technology

Use a variety of resources so that all needs are met.

So many ways! Use tech to facilitate communication, learning goals, and socialization. Provide tech to all who need it. Teach others why accessibility is important and how tech helps.

have students help each other while using tech

any resources that help with break down stigma--online stories, etc

Don't require tech at home in order to complete the coursework

Become familiar with the tech

How can you use technology to build an inclusive classroom environment?

no financial barriers

Provide and use technology
that reflects and supports
students needs and abilities

Kahoot

Other tools in your toolbox

- Movement breaks
- Peer support
- Leadership opportunities
- Play to strengths and interests
- Community of practice
- District and provincial resources

Connect with BCEdAccess

- bcedaccess.com
- info@bcedaccess.com
- Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Bluesky, LinkedIn @bcedaccess
- If you have a child or youth with disabilities, join the private Facebook group - search BCEdAccess
- If you want to volunteer to help, we need you! Email us!



Do you have questions?



- [Damon Kirsebom, "When People See Me Typing" - United for Communication Choice](#) (about 4 minutes)
- [Presuming Competence](#)
- [Using An AAC](#) (about 1 minute)
- [Education is a Human Right - Damon Kirsebom's 2030 Project](#) (about 20 minutes)
- [SpellX](#)
- [Advocacy And Conflict Resolution - A Rights-Based Prime](#)
- [EA Standards of Practice](#)
- [BC Early Teachers Association](#)
- [Social Identity Wheel Activity | Diversity & Inclusion](#)