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Technology and Inclusion

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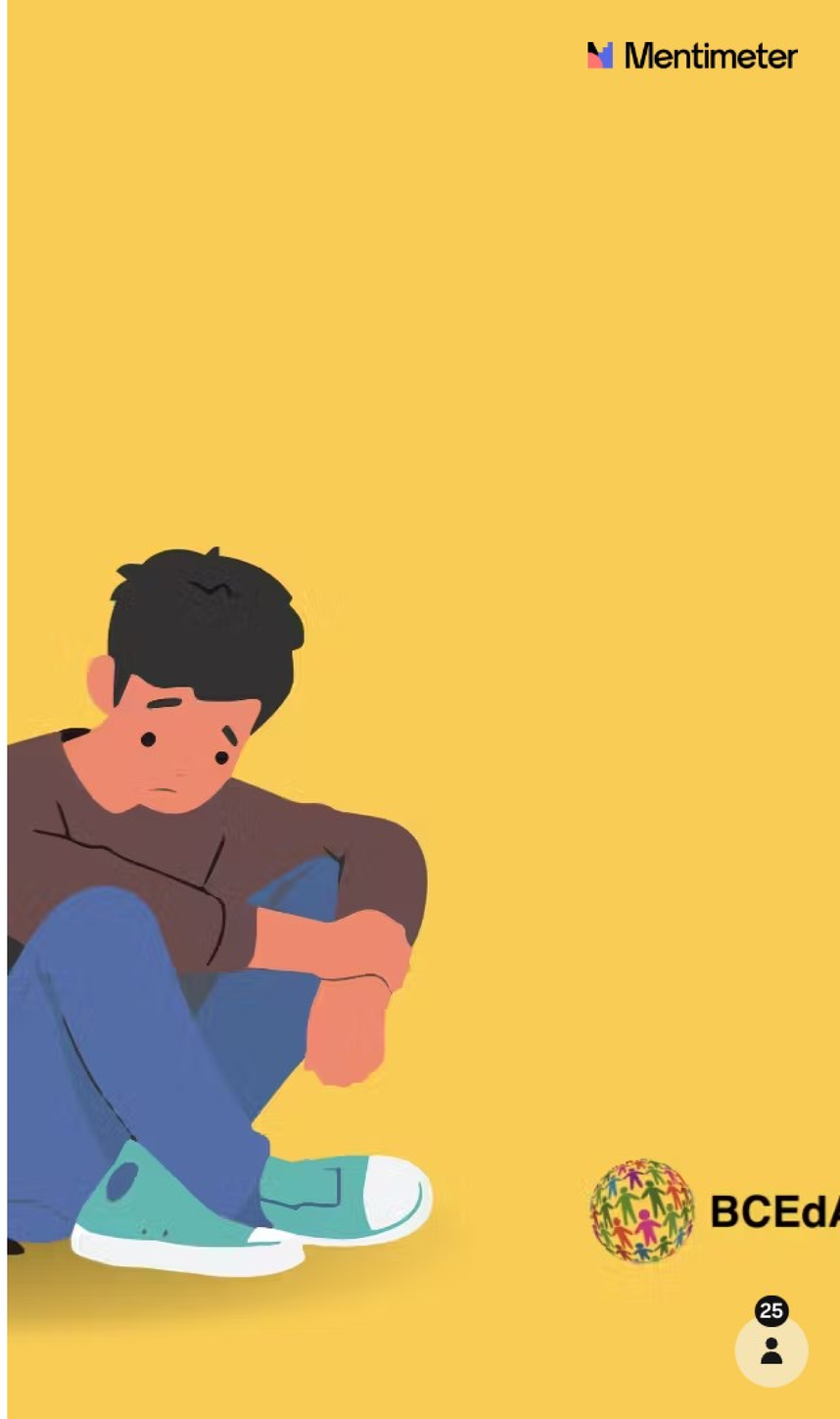
Thinking about your role in the exercise, how did it make you feel?

60 responses



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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 over 6000 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.

Through our peer support group and our presentations, workshops, resources and referrals, we try to ensure that children and youth in K-12 education who are struggling with equitable access to education, and their families who may be in crisis, are supported with the right tools and resources to fix things as soon as possible. We help them navigate the K-12 education system and beyond, and find a path to a solution.

We advocate at the systemic level to bring much needed positive change to education and other systems for children and youth with disabilities and their families.

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

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RACE
RELIGION
SEXUAL IDENTITY
DISABILITY
INTERSECTIONAL IDENTITIES
GENDER
CLASS
RELATIONAL STATUS
TRAUMA

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Accessing support for our children

Designations

Pyschoeducational and other assessments

Personal story

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

text to speech

text to speech technology

Translators

Microphone for teacher to wear to help with hearing

A microphone/speaker-hearing aid

ipads with the app that can help student who can't talk say what they want to say

Subtitles on videos (honestly good for everyone hate when there is none)

chromebooks, noise-cancelling headphones

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

iPads (different apps that support learning are widely available)

AAC Devices, and Eye Gaze Systems

translates

Braille

visual schedule

- Text prompts - Google translate -

Alternate modes of communications (e.g. tablets to point at)

Audio recorders Note takers Grammar correction Calculators Mic/speaker

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

Microphones or headsets so the teacher can project volume without yelling

Alternative keyboards

sensory swing?

devices that have larger touch screens than a phone or even small ipad

monthly/weekly updates

Teaching how to use technology as a tool

Make sure tools are intuitive and designed with the age of the student in mind

Invite parents with more knowledge to come in and help teach other parents/teachers/staff how to use tech - they can then pass it on.

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

Parents

Get student feedback. Allow students to have a voice

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.
- Include assistive technlogy in IEPs.
- Provide training for families and teachers, and ongoing support.
- 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?

Open communication of its use

have discussions of the intention surrounding the use of technology

provide training so everyone understands how technology is used and why

speaking up for their kids/students

Teachers can research new technology and share this with parents, students and so workers about why and how tech works

Working with parents and students to set up appropriate uses for tech. (I.e: Having time limits, some apps or websites restricted, but the helpful and useful apps open and free to use)

Better training for EAs on assistive tech, and increased access to SLPs and OTs on a district level

Involve parents

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

Individualized plans for students, rather than a custom that won't fit everyone

Asking what has been used before, what has worked, what has not and why

Advocate for the benefits and how this can best benefit the classroom

Tell parents what you are thinking about using new tech for

Allow for use in a variety of tasks at home and school (lets students learn how to use properly)

Learn from prior teachers

consistent and open communication with parents, keep them updated

Further education for teachers on how great of an impact it can have on students when used properly. While also fostering proper/safe tech education to the students within the class.

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

Ensure you have a good relationship with the family and they feel coming to the educators for support

from the source-students or teachers parents or EAs even maybe support groups

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Ableism and other systems of oppression

Ableism: (Definition from BC Office of Human Rights Commissioner)

"An ideology and system of oppression in society that holds that some bodies are more valuable than others, which limits the potential of people with disabilities. People with disabilities are assumed to be less worthy of respect and consideration, less able to contribute and take part and of less value than other people. Ableism can be conscious or unconscious and is embedded in institutions, systems and the broader culture of a society."

Racism: Prejudice plus power

Intersectionality: (Definition from Oxford Language)

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.

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

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EXCLUSION TRACKER

An initiative started by BCEdAccess in 2018 that shows students with designations are being excluded from school and therefore do not have equitable access to an education.

https://familysupportbc.com/support/exclusion-tracker/

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

- talking to the student, talking to the parents
- Strong relationships with the parents/guardians is crucial
- IEP's if they have them
- Consult their previous teacher(s) or parents?
- talk to the parents
- Parents, family members, hints from students (self check ins)
- have conversations with them
- Reading their IEP's, having further conversations with parents and old teachers

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

Check their IEP, Safety Plan, or Personal Care Protocol, if they have one.

IEPs and double checking them

Through daily check-ins, ability to keep up with work

parent/gardians

talking to the student, parents, support groups online or irl

Past schools if a new student

Typing versus writing for students

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→ Read the IEP

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

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

open communication regarding its use

have technology accessible

Multiple forms of engagment, visual audio, hands on.

Use tech in new and creative ways. There is constantly new apps, websites etc, so try them out and find new resources

tech always available and easily accessable in the room for students who need it

alternate opportunities for engagement

multiple means of expression

Make it accessible to everyone

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

Never take away the technology as it aids in independence

Available noise cancelling headphones for whoever needs them. Quiet spaces accessible to all learners. Multiple levels of learning available.

Allow students to access technology if need be. Teach them it is a tool and how they can use it effectively m.

Be intentional with your usage. Make sure when sharing videos and photos the children can see themselves within the media presented by the technology.

teaching students how to use technology as a tool. Have students collaborate and you accessible technology to do research and projects.

Use language tools and give out tech assignments involving self expression

don't prioritize specific students for use. of technology (?)

Make it okay for all students to use tech for ex everyone can use noise cancelling handphones not just those with designations (UDL)

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

Let them experiment with technology and collaborate!

Work in variety of groups

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, 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?

Further Learning & Resources

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