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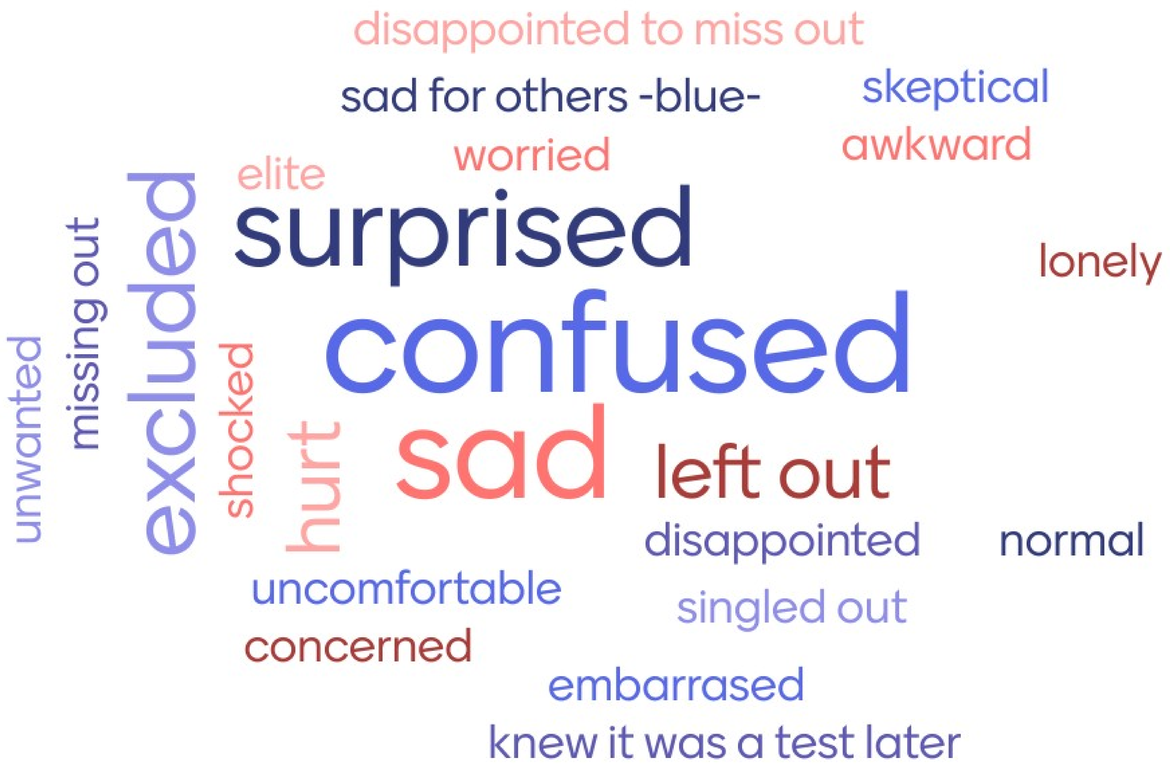
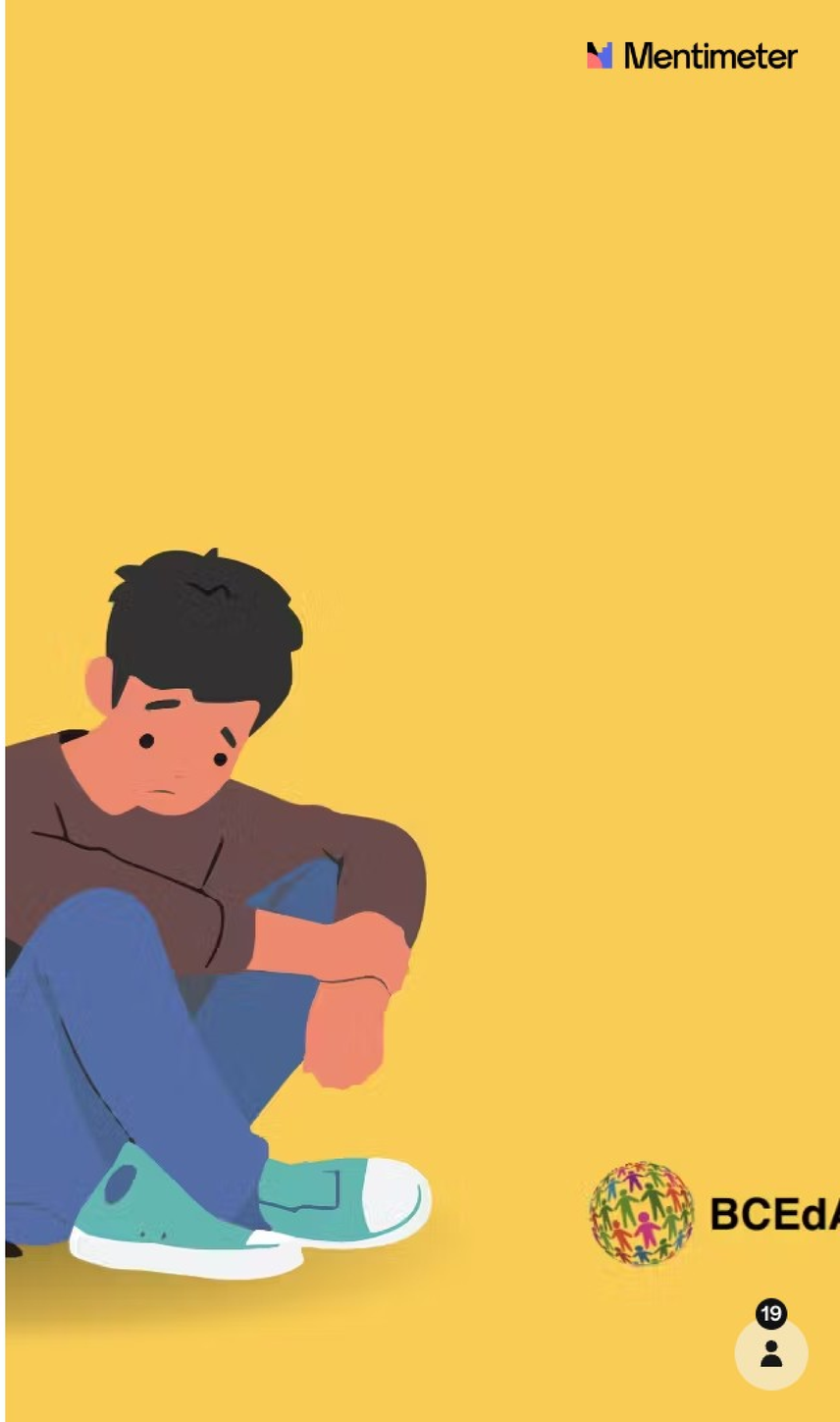
Technology and Inclusion

KAORI LAU AND TRACY HUMPHREYS, BCEDACCESS SOCIETY

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

42 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

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

Google Read and Write

google read and write

Google read and write

Ipads

speech to talk

Speech to text

iPads to accommodate students who can't write as easily

Nova chat

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

iPads (AAC & translation tools)

text to speech

Assisting visual learning

Sound field system

iPad

Translating applications for ELL students

Microsoft edge browser

microphones/speakers

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

microphone

Translation tools, Language games, Speech to text

Google read and write Specific chairs Fidgets Speaker system in the classroom

Subtitles

challenge own perceptions about disability

keep an open dialogue with students and parents

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.
- 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?

- Communication
- Ask the students
- Digital literacy
- workshops
- ongoing communication
- consider how some tech may privilege some students over others
- Training on how to use tech tools properly
- Avoid an over reliance on technology, know where it's needed

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

Open-mindedness

advocating for funding

By understanding the assessment of a student and their needs we can then use the proper technology as the students and the technologies are all different.

throughout the school year as things might change

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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/

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

- Questionnaire to parents and guardians during first week of school
- ask the student or their parent
- talk to the students and parents
- Observation
- look at the IEP
- Ask the student and their families
- Talking with parents. Previous teachers
- Talk with admin

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

- Get to know your students
- communicating with students previous teachers
- Throughout the school year as things might change
- Have times for self reflection
- make assistive tech available to all and an everyday part of the classroom

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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?

including closed captions in videos

Can help students who can't readily communicate 'say' things to me

wear a mic

everyone should know how to use aac

teach all students how to use google read and write and have it available

teaching ASL to all students to help non speaking students

Design lessons so they can be scaffolded to a technology when possible

Rely on things everyone can use/have access to

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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