

# Personalized Learning in BC Parents' Guide



“Everyone,  
ultimately, has a  
stake in the calibre of  
schools, and education is  
everyone’s business.”

*Michael Fullan,  
The Moral Imperative  
of School Leadership*

# Personalized Learning:

Personalized learning is a 21st century approach to learning and education that puts the needs of students first. It recognizes each student as an individual learner, with his or her own learning style and unique gifts. It also recognizes and values a student's own individual interests and future goals.

Personalized learning acknowledges that not all students learn successfully at the same pace, in the same learning environment, and in the same learning style. This approach builds partnerships between teachers, parents, students and schools to design a learning program for each student according to their personal needs and learning style.

In British Columbia, many teachers already use personalized learning strategies but this may not happen in every classroom. The government is committed to bringing personalized learning to every student to enhance their education. To reach that goal, processes, policies and structures need to be created province-wide.

These include:

- Redefining the roles of the school, teacher, student, and parent/family in the learning process.
- Improving connections between student learning, curriculum, instruction, classroom-based assessment, and province wide assessment.
- Funding our education system to support effective personalized learning practices

helps learners develop skills, knowledge and competencies they need in school and in life.

responds to the uniqueness of every learner with flexibility in where, when and how they learn.

provides parents with more choice and meaningful opportunities to be engaged in their child's learning.

views teachers as facilitators of learning and supports them with world class teacher preparation, certification, and professional development.

sets high standards for all learners and supports them to meet those standards.

gives learners literacy and numeracy skills needed to pursue and fulfill their goals.

involves learners in designing learning experiences that integrate their interests and passions.

# Imagine

an education system that...

offers all learners technology to connect them to learning opportunities around the world.

ensures teachers have the technology to engage students and parents.



# Will Personalized Learning change what students learn?

A personalized learning approach is an alternative to the “one size fits all” approach to education, with a greater emphasis on flexibility and choice. However, while the way children learn may differ, core curriculum requirements and expectations remain. Reading, writing, oral language and numeracy are still necessary.

To better prepare students for the education and workplace challenges of today and the future, there will be increased emphasis on competencies. Learners will develop these competencies by applying their skills and knowledge to new learning situations.

## **Competencies**

- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Social responsibility
- Healthy living
- Global and cultural understanding
- Communication
- Innovation
- Critical thinking and problem solving



# Will Personalized Learning change what students learn?

As the foundation of BC's education program, the provincial curriculum must be both flexible and comprehensive. It will play a critical role in personalizing education for all learners in BC and ensure equal outcomes across the province.

All learners will develop the knowledge, skills and competencies they need for a bright future and will have opportunities to extend their learning into areas of personal interest and passion.

Several teachers, administrators, and other education partners have said that B.C.'s current curriculum has too many prescribed outcomes (what students are expected to know and do at the end of a grade or course).

As a result, teachers say they do not have the autonomy or time to tailor curriculum to individual learner's needs.



# Curriculum in the Personalized World

In order to personalize learning, provincial curriculum will need to be renewed, not merely revised.

It will need to:

- Be rigorous and adhere to high standards.
- Emphasize the value of foundation skills and 21st century competencies.
- Provide more flexibility, and opportunities to explore areas of interest, with fewer content-specific outcomes.



# Instructional Practices

In an increasingly student-centered education system, we will see a wider variety of instructional approaches that focus on the exploratory nature of learning. These approaches could include:

- More time for students to reflect on what they are learning, why they are learning it, and how it could be applied.
- More opportunities for students to learn collaboratively.
- Using the community and local environment as the classroom.

While not new, these approaches recognize that children are natural learners and they have an innate capacity to learn.



# Assessing student performance

Assessment is the process of gathering evidence of what a student knows, understands, and is able to do. It demonstrates how well they are achieving the learning outcomes of a subject or course. Assessment can take many different forms, such as observations, peer

and self-assessments, group work, essays, responding to problems, discussions, conferences, homework, projects and tests. All forms of assessment are intended to support learning.





# More info on personalized learning

The Ministry of Education has prepared an interactive discussion guide about personalized learning in B.C. so that parents, educators and students can provide feedback as the government moves to a personalized learning model.

We want you to help us determine what personalized learning will look like and bring this vision to our students.

The guide is part of an on-going dialogue and public engagement to create an education system that enables each learner in B.C. to meet their full potential.

To read the guide, and join the discussion log onto [www.personalizedlearningbc.ca/](http://www.personalizedlearningbc.ca/)









Ministry of  
Education

[www.bcedplan.ca](http://www.bcedplan.ca)