



Focus on

BCTF Curriculum Change and Implementation Survey

Details

In the fall of 2017, the BCTF surveyed members about curriculum change and implementation.

The overall aim of the survey was to develop a deeper understanding of the state of curriculum change across the province, and to shape the Federation's priorities for supporting members in relation to curriculum change.

Survey participants represented 57 districts. 80% are classroom teachers and represent all curricular areas. 87% taught K–9 and 43% taught 10–12 in the past year.

Summary of Key Findings

The survey was divided into four areas. The following are just a few of the key findings:

1. Curricular Model

- Key conceptual elements of the curriculum are core competencies, a “know-do-understand” model of learning, and literacy and numeracy foundations. Approximately one-fifth of teachers do not feel ready or prepared to implement these elements.
- Teachers have different opinions as to the appropriateness of some of these elements in their classrooms.
- There is an immediate need for adequate and accessible resources and in-service time to support these elements.

2. Teacher Autonomy and Workload

- Teachers are asserting their professional autonomy to exercise their judgement and act on it in the classroom.

- Teachers feel they have the least autonomy in relation to choosing appropriate technological tools and reporting tools.

3. Involvement, Professional Development and Learning

- Teachers have been involved in a wide range of formal structures related to curriculum change, but they have mixed feelings as to whether they have had a meaningful voice to date.
- Teachers have also participated in a range of professional development activities, but these activities can increase workload and have little or no impact on preparedness.
- Teachers report individual research has the most impact, but can require significant personal time and money.

4. Curriculum Implementation

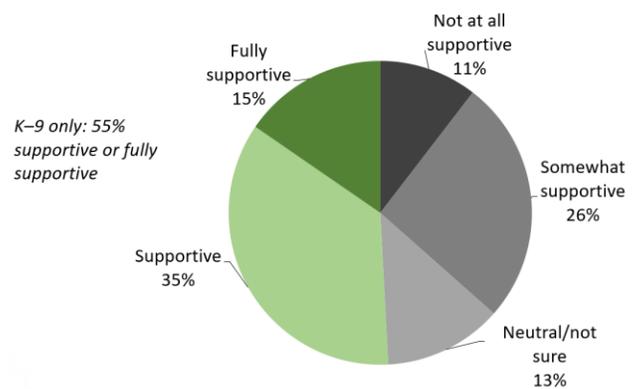
- Teachers are at different stages in the process of curriculum implementation. 44% of all teachers say they used the redesigned curriculum to a large or very large extent during the 2016–17 school year. This increases to 54% for teachers who teach K–9 only.
- There is an urgent need for appropriate instructional materials. On average, teachers feel that 43% of their instructional materials have changed. Typically, teachers rate their access to necessary instructional materials as a 4 on a scale of 0–10.

- Teachers are divided as to what extent they feel supportive of the redesigned curriculum.

The full survey report can be found here: bctf.ca/CurriculumSurvey/.

The survey is part of a broader five-year BCTF project on curriculum change across the province. A follow-up survey is planned for 2019.

Level of support for the redesigned curriculum
(% of all teachers)



BCTF Advice

Joint Education Change Committees

Members are encouraged to ensure that there is a joint education change school staff committee in place. These committees are vital to address site-specific and local issues related to curriculum, assessment, and reporting issues. The importance of this committee cannot be overstated, as teachers cannot be merely recipients of directions from administration. Rather, there need to be collaborative discussions on the school and local issues impacting change.

Some teachers are being asked to communicate how they are “fully implementing” the revised curriculum. If this is a direction you have received, contact your local union office.

Note: Curriculum implementation is a process. It will not happen overnight.

From the curriculum framework documents to support curriculum implementation:

The process should ensure that the focus is strength-based rather than deficit-based, and should allow for multiple entry points to engage in the dialogue around curriculum. It is therefore critical and cannot be overemphasized that the implementation of the curricula be viewed as an ongoing, long-term process, rather than an event.

Links

The complete results of the 2017 BCTF Curriculum Change and Implementation Survey can be found at this BCTF [site](#).

[TeachBC](#) is an online resource of teaching materials, lessons and research relevant to the K-12 BC curriculum.