

## What does a school staff need to know about Library Learning Commons?

This learning guide is designed for use by instructional leaders and learning communities or as a self-paced study to explore effective Library Learning Commons.



This learning guide is intended for use after viewing one of these videos, [Library Learning Commons](#) or [Imagine the Possibilities](#)

A learning commons is an inclusive, flexible, learner-centred, physical and/or virtual space for collaboration, inquiry, imagination and play to expand and deepen learning.

### Key understandings:

- The Learning Commons Policy and Learning Commons Guidelines, approved in 2014 and to be implemented September 2014, replace the previous Policy, Guidelines, Procedures and Standards for School Libraries in Alberta (1984).
- A learning commons is a common, or shared, learning 'space' that is both physical and virtual. It is more a perspective than a "place." A learning commons perspective supports a student-centred approach that emphasizes active and collaborative engagement and encourages the co-creation of knowledge by all learners.
- A learning commons provides individual, small and large group space, either physical and/or virtual, for instruction, social/collaborative learning, and production and presentation. It also promotes global and cultural understanding as students collaborate with their local and broader community to investigate and create solutions to complex problems.
- Research shows that students who have access to quality school library services, which a learning commons perspective enables, are more likely to exhibit advanced student achievement and literacy development.

### For more information:

Alberta Education - Learning Commons/School Libraries  
<http://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/slsi.aspx>  
Canadian Library Association: [Voices for School Libraries Network: CLA National Project](#)  
[The School Learning Commons Knowledge Building Center](#)  
[Leading Learning: Standards of Practice for School Libraries in Canada 2014 eBook](#)

### Questions for discussion:

- In order to implement the Learning Commons Policy what shift in resources and philosophy will be required? Schools need to assess existing resources to ensure they are effectively taking advantage of already available resources and services within the community. What does that mean for your school?
- How do schools create or support a culture that fosters risk-taking, collaboration inquiry and innovative teaching and learning that will contribute to the creation of a library learning commons?
- What attitudes, skills and knowledge do educators need in order to be able to experiment and model new educational practices and technologies in support of the library learning commons philosophy?
- What steps and resources would be needed to transform your school library into a learning commons that was agile and responsive to the learning and teaching environment, available to individuals and groups to use for multiple, often simultaneous, purposes?

### For more information:

Alberta School Initiatives  
Calgary Board of Education  
[Library to Learning Commons: Implementation Guide](#)  
Chinook's Edge  
[Implementing Library Transformation: Creating a Learning Commons](#)  
Rocky View Schools  
[Transformation to Learning Commons: Planning Framework](#)

### Acknowledgement:

This guide was developed by Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium and funded through a grant from Alberta Education to support implementation. It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons license.

