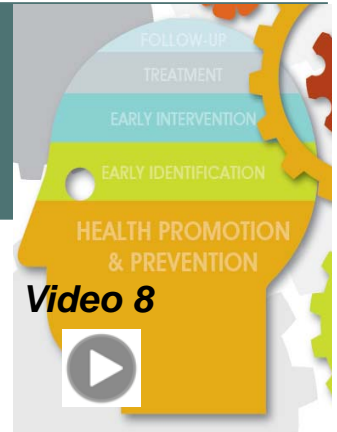


How can school staff support student leadership?



Resources:

The Edmonton Catholic School District Mental Health Strategic Plan provides opportunities to further develop your understanding of mental health and build awareness about tools and strategies to support all students' mental health.

Key Understandings:

- Educators need to invest in their students and empower them to be participants in a shared collective endeavor, their education. It is important to build community and capacity in a school. Relationships are the essence of a school community.
- It is important for students to experience leadership opportunities during their schooling. It provides an opportunity for students to learn and identify and display effective communication and interpersonal skills.
- It is important to involve students in the process of deciding what types of leadership opportunities they would like to be involved in at their school.
- Student leadership is when students are not only engaged, but also take ownership of and lead school initiatives. There are varying degrees or levels of student involvement in schools; increased levels of more meaningful engagement results in more effective and sustainable positive outcomes.
- Successful student engagement initiatives require adult champions to assist with creating a vision, identify outcomes and plan for an authentic and meaningful engagement.

Questions for discussion:

- How can we ensure that all our students are able to engage in student leadership opportunities within our classroom?
- What is the school doing to support student leadership opportunities within the school community?
- How can we ensure that our students are given opportunities for more meaningful engagement to be decision makers as leaders?

For more information:

Alberta Education, Student Engagement
<https://education.alberta.ca/student-engagement/why-engage-students/>

Joint Consortium for School Health, Youth Engagement Toolkit
<http://www.jcsh-cces.ca/index.php/resources/youth-engagement>

- Working Together to Support Mental Health in Alberta Schools
https://education.alberta.ca/media/3576206/working_together_to_support_mental_health.pdf

