

Explore, Engage, Experience: Finding a Future in Trades and Technologies

Session Two: ENGAGE

East Central Catholic Schools, Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools, Livingstone Ski Academy, Palliser Off-Campus Education

The intent of a CASS Learning Guide is to apply research, deepen understanding and enhance professional practice within the Alberta context. With a focus on optimum learning for all students, a Learning Guide provides an opportunity to grow system leader knowledge, resulting in quality school leadership and quality teaching throughout Alberta.

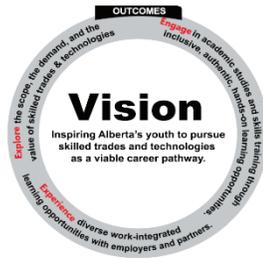
Summary

The Trades, Apprenticeship and Vocational Education Committee (TAVE) was established by the College of Alberta School Superintendents with a grant from Alberta Education. Building awareness is necessary for people to come together as partners and subsequently work together provincially and collectively. TAVE is working to bring provincial representatives together to share and participate in the vision of ‘Inspiring Alberta Students to Pursue Trades and Technologies as a Career Pathway.’ When partners work together, they can share knowledge, expertise, and resources, which can lead to increased programming for students.

TAVE Strategic Framework Outcomes

Through shared responsibility and accountability, Alberta’s government, school authorities, post-secondary institutions, partner organizations, and industry enable K-12 students to:

- Explore the scope, the demand, and the value of skilled trades and technologies.
- **Engage** in academic studies and skills training through inclusive, authentic, hands-on learning opportunities.
- Experience diverse work-integrated learning opportunities with employers and partners.



In the second of the three TAVE online series presentations, four Alberta school jurisdictions have described the innovative ways in which they are approaching the TAVE outcome of engaging their students in academic studies and skills training through inclusive, authentic, and hands-on learning opportunities.

These school jurisdictions and their stories include:



Story of Practice #5: East Central Catholic Schools (ECCS): Mobile CTS-CTF Trailer Implementation Story (Recording 6:32 – 45:39)

ECCS serves the students and families of a large geographic area in east central Alberta, including Vermilion,

Wainwright, Provost, Castor, Stettler, and School of Hope homeschooling and online programs that span the entire province. The jurisdiction has a population of 2,500 students and 120 teachers, with 10 schools across their geographical area.

ECCS faced a challenging issue regarding their CTF-CTS learning facility for students in grades 7 to 12. The existing CTF-CTS facilities in rural areas were aging and finding a flexible and effective solution was difficult. However, they found the perfect solution in a large mobile CTS-CTF Trailer. The school team collaborated with International Truck Body (ITB), a company with a head office in Surrey, BC, and an Alberta office in Coaldale. The school system submitted a project design proposal to ITB, committing to a \$1.2 million board investment for a mobile, highly expandable trailer that would serve as a CTS-CTF classroom. The investment would provide much-needed space for CTS/CTF classrooms, program diversification, Dual Credit program opportunities, student engagement, and potentially community learning opportunities.

When ECCS decided to invest in a Career Technologies Studies Mobile Classroom, they needed to consider the total cost of ownership. ECCS submitted a request for proposal (RFP) in 2018, and after ITB won the bid, many logistical details needed to be considered. Many logistical details needed to be considered in the project, including trailer weight, pad logistics, wiring, relocation, and setup costs. The trailer pad logistics were significant for each school, and factors like the cost and size of the pad and differing community bylaws had to be considered. School scheduling, the number of moves in a year, the weather, and the time for take-down and set-up at the sites were also important considerations. Despite these challenges, ECCS and ITB successfully created a 62-foot long and 32-foot wide “classroom on wheels”. Congratulations to ECCS for creating an innovative and incredible new learning environment.

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The Welding Pathways

program at John Paul II Catholic High School in Grande Prairie is a prime example of innovative education practices implemented by Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools. The Welding Pathways Program is housed within the high school, which also offers French Immersion education for students in grades 9 to 12, including an outreach program for grades 10 to 12.

The program is led by Jacques LeCerf, a highly skilled and experienced teacher with 20 years of industry exposure in fabrication and construction. The inclusion of this program in the school's curriculum was deemed crucial due to the skills gap in Alberta, with around 100,000 unfilled jobs and many companies struggling to find qualified workers. This welding program is comprised of fifteen CTS credits that are mapped to the AIT's Individual Learning Modules. The goal of the program is to guide the students to successful AIT Accreditation, facilitate career exploration, and ensure success for students after high school.

In addition to the Welding Pathways program, John Paul II Catholic High School offers other courses such as fabrication, construction, open tech studies, foods, fashion, and cosmetology. They have introduced a new program, Home and Auto Care, that focuses on developing basic fundamental skills and knowledge related to auto maintenance and home care. Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools are commended for their dedication to implementing innovative practices that create opportunities for students in Alberta to engage in trade experiences.

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Story of Practice #7: Livingstone Ski Academy: Building Life-Long Skills in our Alpine Classroom (Recording 1:09:50 - 1:31:44)

Nestled in the small community of Lundbreck, Alberta, Livingstone Ski Academy (LSA) provides a unique educational experience that blends academics with athletics. The Academy offers an on-snow skiing and snowboarding program at Castle Mountain Resort from December to March. With over seven years of operation, both the Academy and the Livingstone School have seen growth in student enrollment.

The LSA program is available to students in grades 4–12, and the coaches provide personalized instruction throughout the season in technical skills, big-mountain skiing, racing, freestyle, and terrain park skills. Students are supported in recreational and competitive programs. As well, older students are introduced to instructor and coach certification opportunities. Livingstone School is proud of its long tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts. With strong community support and a wealth of volunteer involvement, LSA provides a safe and welcoming environment where students can thrive. The Academy's modified timetable, division investment, LSA Society Support, along with partnerships with transportation, the resort, retailers, sponsors, and grants provide students with a dynamic educational experience.

Story of Practice #6: Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools: Welding Pathways at JPII (Recording 45:47 - 1:08:51)

LSA's Pathways Grade 10-12 course allows students to further their education while pursuing their passion for skiing or snowboarding. High school students aim to acquire CTS credits and pre-employment training and certification to participate in snowsports throughout their lives, whether as athletes, coaches, ski patrollers, or in other roles. The Alpine Classroom's innovative and inclusive program provides a dynamic educational experience that challenges and inspires students.

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Story of Practice #8: Palliser Off Campus Education: Career Pathway Programs that Promote Equitable Opportunities for Students (Recording 1:31:53 - 1:55:19)

The Palliser School Division serves over 9,000 students and embraces the diversity the various communities and cultures bring to the school division. These include 15 community schools, 17 Hutterite colony schools, 11 faith-based alternative schools, and 5 outreach programs. Additionally, Palliser offers an online school and 4 Low German Mennonite alternative programs.

The Palliser Off Campus Education Program offers a diverse range of courses in multiple areas of study, such as trades, business, healthcare, agriculture, arts, religion, sports, leadership, and sciences. These courses aim to provide equal opportunities for students to explore their interests, acquire new skills, and enhance their confidence for future success. For instance, the Farm Education Program at Picture Butte High School is designed to offer experiential learning opportunities to students, allowing them to deepen their knowledge, troubleshoot, and resolve issues. Similarly, The Kate Andrew Fire Academy is a two-year program that focuses on fire service and emergency response standards in Year 1 and fire response and medical certifications in Year 2. In addition, students in four rural schools can take a culinary program with an itinerant SAIT instructor.

Palliser students are undoubtedly thriving by participating in these hands-on programs, which not only enable them to explore various trades skills, and professions but also engage with real-world challenges and gain practical experience that can be applied to future endeavours.

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Research to Practice

Questions for reflection and dialogue within your context.

1. How can the approaches of these four school authorities be adapted and implemented in other contexts to engage students in trades and technology experiences?
2. What resources and partnerships can we leverage to provide adequate opportunities for all students to engage in trades and technologies?
3. What strategies can we use to increase student engagement in CTF-CTS curricular programming?
4. How can we collaborate with local businesses and organizations to provide inclusive and authentic hands-on learning opportunities for our students?

Additional Supports for System Leadership Capacity

- [Watch the full recording here](#)
- [Presentation Slides](#)
- [TAVE Strategic Framework](#)
- [2021 Supporting Student Choice Successes and Challenges in Recruiting Teachers to Support Student Choice 2022 Alberta School Authority Skilled Trades and Technologies Survey Report](#)
- [TAVE Strategic Framework Learning Guide](#)
- [2022 Alberta School Authority Skilled Trades and Technologies Survey Report](#)
- [Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act](#)

