



## A Focus on Equity for All Learners

### Thematic Session

Breakout sessions at CASSA 2022 are designed to allow time for participants to explore topics of most interest to them. Whether gathered with your own team and colleagues, or meeting leaders from across Canada, this is an opportunity to share and discuss issues relevant to us all.

### A Focus on Equity for All Learners

There is a deep belief that those who have been most impacted by the changes in learning over the past two years have been those who are the most vulnerable and those who require the most intensive supports. Many of the structures we had in place were challenged or were disconnected. Our goal now is to return to our inclusive roots, to rebuild and to provide the solid foundation that all children, and in particular children with disabilities or diverse abilities.

We have worked for years to raise the bar and close the gap for all learners. When we focus on the needs of those who required the most support, when we create learning that is universal by design, all children benefit. The gap in achievement between those who have disabilities or diverse abilities and those who do not is lessened, and those who are already performing at high levels, also show gains. The end result is that we raise the bar and close the gap. Our concern is that over the past two years, we have lost ground and the gap may have widened. We do not yet fully understand the outcomes as it is too early to grasp the full impact.

What structures, strategies have you put into place? What evidence or measures are you examining to understand the impact on learners who are vulnerable? Here are some guiding questions:

1. Particularly as a result of the past two years, what additional strategies or structures are you putting into place to address the needs of learners who are in need of additional support?
2. What evidence do you have that those who are most in need of support have indeed been most impacted by disruption in learning? Does the evidence you have bear out the belief that those who require the most support have been the most impacted?
3. Specifically, to which demographic or category of learners have you targeted your additional supports and efforts? Why did you choose this group?



**Canadian Association of School System Administrators**

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