

What is a learning commons?

A learning commons is a whole school approach to building a participatory learning community. The library learning commons is the physical and virtual collaborative learning hub of the school.
Leading Learning, CLA, 2014

This learning guide is designed for use by instructional leaders and professional learning communities or as a self-paced study to explore learning commons.



Use this learning guide after viewing [the LC Video Byte 5: Engage Community](#)

Synopsis: *In LC Video Byte 5 we examine the importance of engaging community in the development of a learning commons.*

Key understandings:

- Engaging the community is one of the most vital things to do to develop a learning commons approach.
- Collaborative teams leading whole school LC facilitate responsibility and ownership. Everyone needs to be welcomed to the process and participate.
- Enrich the LC journey by involving the broader community including the public library, academic libraries, online reference centers, authors and experts from local and global communities.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- How are you engaging the community with your LC? What new things could you try?
- How can you strengthen your relationship with the public library and other libraries?
- How can you involve students in promoting the LC with the broader community?

Additional resources:

Learn about the Alberta Collaborative Library Policy
http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/documents/lcvss/Government_of_Alberta-Collaborative_Library_Policy.pdf

See examples of community engagement in *Leading Learning: Standards Of Practice For School Library Learning Commons In Canada*.
<http://www.canadianschoollibraries.ca>

Connect with The Alberta Library (TAL) Online Reference Centre.
<http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/services/online-reference-centre>

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