

EDEF 3200 Alternate Education  
The Sour Patch Kids - Sydnee, Rebecca, Taylor and Sean  
*Twin Rivers Education Centre: School Learning Plan A review of 2018 - 2019 and  
looking towards 2019 - 2020*

**Video Link: <https://youtu.be/CE5H4fOdVL0>**

**1. Summary/Visualizing (Rebecca Saunderson)**

Summary

The report begins by offering context for those unfamiliar with Twin Rivers Education Centre (TREC). TREC is an alternative education program with a wide scope to meet the diverse needs of students. The overall goal of TREC is the graduation of students. However, this goal requires clear objectives and evaluations to achieve success.

The report offers an overview of the goals that were set for 2018-2019 and considers the success of these goals. The first goal is to improve literacy and numeracy provincial assessments scores and states “every student will acquire the necessary knowledge and skills through their course work to be successful on the literacy and numeracy provincial assessments prior to their graduation” (Twin Rivers Education Centre, 2019, p. 5). The second goal aims to develop the social/emotional needs of students by connecting them with community agencies and states “every student will be attached to a relevant outside agency within six weeks of registration to support their social emotional well-being” (Twin Rivers Education Centre, 2019, p. 7). The third goal is to deepen learning by offering students project based or inquiry learning experiences and states “every student will engage in a minimum of one Project Based Learning opportunity per course in order to meet the learning standards of the course” (Twin Rivers Education Centre, 2019, p. 9).

Through multiple approaches, there was significant improvement seen within the first two goals. However, the approaches to the third goal need to be reevaluated in order to see more success in future years.

Visualization



## 2. Webbing and Questions



*What facets of Alternative Education can be implemented into the 'regular school system' to have them be more responsive to more students?*

I think that the biggest advantage to the alternative programs is that it takes differentiated learning to the extreme by making the program fit the student, rather than vice versa. The scalability of this is exceedingly difficult in larger schools with populations of 1000 students who are static, for much of the year. Smaller classes would be good but again, it becomes an issue of available space in schools. Another side of things is to have community connections, which is also, by scale, difficult. The best thing that can be taken into the general school system I think is more personalized counselling sessions and being proactive in the identification and movement to address social anxiety or social stigma that students today face.

*Are there noted disadvantages to the existing Type Three Alternative Education programs in the province and what steps can be taken to address them?*

In terms of the issues with Type Three Schools, I look at it in the same way that I used to think of Math 11A or Communications 12 vs English 12 - there is a stigma to taking these courses in that people think that you are 'not as good as you need to be.' With Type Three schools, the focus is on getting to the graduation mark and not necessarily in the mode of the constant educational inflation we have in our society today. This goes hand in hand with recognizing the dignity of all work, and if there is one thing that the COVID 19 Pandemic has shown, it is the necessity of what people would normally think of as 'lesser workers' in the economy. Combining both and then mixing in the ideas of decolonization and the lifting of neglected social and cultural groups would be a great boon.

### 3. Wordsmith/Passage Picker

#### Three Words from the Article:

##### 1. S.O.I.G.

- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Being inclusive and creating a safe place for students
- Speaking about SOIG in a way that makes every student feel like they belong
- Not limiting a person's potential based on their biological sex and how they understand or express their gender
- Welcoming everyone without discrimination, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity

##### 2. Parity

- "The state or condition of being equal, especially regarding status and pay" (Dictionary, 2021).
- Through Indigenous and non-Indigenous graduation rate
- Creating equality for all people that enter Twin Rivers Education Center

##### 3. Inquiry-Learning

- "An approach to learning that emphasizes the student's roles in the learning process" (Grade Power Learning, 2020).
- Deeper learning
- Engaging the students within studies that interests them

- Small group discussions
- Guided learning - Students learn by doing instead of just memorization

### Two Passages from the Article:

1. “If we create deeper learning experiences in every subject, then we will see students pursue their personal passions and potentially realize a life learning path” (Twin Rivers Education Center, 2019).

This passage is one of the main goals from the Twin Rivers Education Center. This passage resonates with our teaching philosophy as it gives the students the chance to broaden their knowledge on different topics, may give them the incentive to continue on with education after attending TREC. When students are passionate about a topic, they are more likely to engage with the lesson. Having the flexibility to learn from the students what their interests and passions are, can greatly benefit the students. Reflecting on my educational journey, I wasn't given the opportunity to pursue my personal passions during school. There was a curriculum that was very strict and linear, and most teachers couldn't go beyond that. When I went on to pursue post-secondary school education I was lost at which direction I wanted to go. I hadn't been given the opportunity to study anything that was passionate to me, so I assumed I had to pick a career based from the main subject matters. I think being able to implement personal passion into the classroom can help student realize that their enthusiasm can benefit their goals in the future.

2. “If we have a school wide teaching and learning approach to supporting each learner with the provincial graduation assessments, then we can see each student write these assessments successfully (Twin Rivers Education Center, 2019, p. 2).

This passage is another one of the main goals from the Twin Rivers Education Center. This passage also resonates with our teaching philosophy. The end goal of a teacher is to prepare your students for life after the classroom. Although we are in an elementary

level program, preparing students for the next level of education is just as important. Every teacher wants their students to succeed, inside and outside of the classroom. If there is a school wide approach to supporting these learners, so they can gain the necessary tools needed for graduation, the teachers would be the first ones to jump on board. Then, when the students want to go and write the assessments to graduate, they can do it successfully.

#### **4. Actualizer (Sydnee Blackall)**

In the roll of the actualizer of our presentation I designed a scavenger hunt for our presentation activity. As our reading was on a specific alternative education model, the Twin Rivers Education Center, I decided to design the scavenger hunt to explore the TREC website. This quiz requires participants to explore all corners of the TREC website and even view a video on the homepage to answer the questions. This scavenger hunt incentivises participants to learn about TREC's purpose and programs. The scavenger hunt will be accessed as a seperate word document.

Twin Rivers Education Center. (n.d.). Retrieved February 24, 2021, from <https://twinrivers.sd73.bc.ca/en/index.aspx>

#### Sour Patch Kids Twin Rivers Education Center Scavenger Hunt!

What are TREC's School Goals?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is the Bridges Program and why is it important?

Describe what Directed Suspension is?

What is the First Steps program and why is it important?

What does The Four Directions Secondary School provide?

List 5 Courses offered by TREC.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

List 3 things that are expected of students from the Code of Conduct.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is the TREC code of conduct intended to encourage?

Find the video on Nature's Healer Cross Curriculum Project and answer the following questions.

- What are "Old Ladies Fingers" good for?
- What is one of the Harvesting protocols?
- What are the cross curricular connections in this project?