

## Session 11 Learn: Building Student Ownership of Choices



It is important to understand that a critical component of UDL is fostering student ownership of their learning. Teachers may give students options for learning, but if students have not developed an awareness of how various learning options work for them, then choices will not result in increased learning.

**LEARN:** You'll read a bit about building student ownership and compare this idea to two other forces in education: Assessment as Learning and the MCPS Thinking and Academic Success Skills Indicators.

- **Reflections on Student ownership (below)**
- **Assessment as Learning**
- **MCPS Thinking and Academic Success Skills Indicators**

### **Reflections on Student Ownership of Learning Resource**

#### **Building Student Ownership of Choices: Assessment as Learning**

In a UDL classroom, we expect students to be engaged, independent, and effective learners. This requires more than just presenting content in an interesting way. As educators, we need to provide tools for students to take ownership of their learning by reflecting on the choices that they are provided for engaging with content and expressing their knowledge.

This concept is also supported by two forces within the current and emerging elementary school curriculum that you should be aware of. First is the idea of *Assessment as Learning*, which means that we use the assessment cycle as a learning opportunity for students rather than simply a tool to inform us as teachers. The second idea is that in addition to teaching content, we are charged with teaching students to reflect on their own progress and make choices about strategies to attain a goal. The MCPS elementary curriculum addresses this with the Academic Success Skills Indicators. Compare the following two charts:

- "[Assessment as Learning](#)" excerpted from the online book, [Rethinking Classroom Assessment with Purpose in Mind](#), from Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
- "[MCPS Thinking and Academic Success Skills Indicators](#)" from the [Elementary Integrated Curriculum Framework](#)

We believe that the UDL viewpoint "building student ownership of choices" is aligned with the principles of both Assessment as Learning and the Thinking and Academic Success Skills.

## **Building Student Ownership of Choices: Checkpoints for Building Student Ownership of Choices**

There are many ways to have students reflect on choices in products, tools, methods or materials. Some teachers use surveys. Others may consider graphing class preferences.

In this section we will ask you to reflect on three important checkpoints of empowering and building effective student choices within the UDL framework:

- **Recognition:** Methods to introduce choices to students. This may involve introducing a new method to the whole class so that it becomes an option for future assignments. Or, it may involve explicitly asking students to do a task several different ways in order to reflect on the experience.
- **Reflection:** Methods to have students document or share which choices did or did not support their learning for a specific task.
- **Planning:** Methods for students to choose a way of learning or demonstrating knowledge based on choices they've had before.

*Consideration should be given to make sure each of these is "usable" and "accessible" to all learners.*

## **Session 11 DISCUSS: Building Student Ownership of Choices**

### **Reflections on Student Ownership of Learning Resources**

#### **Reflection and Discussion:**

*Why is building student ownership of choices important?*

#### **Responses to Colleagues**

*Build on the ideas of your colleagues. Remember to deepen the discussion and not simply respond, "I agree" or "I plan to try that." As always, reply to at least one colleague.*