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**Keywords:**

Industry Links with Curriculum

**Learning areas:**

Integrated STEM

## The Importance for Schools to Make Industry Links and Partnerships for Curriculum Development.

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Traditionally, the understanding is that School is a place where teachers teach. Teachers become the font of all knowledge and students are taught how to do things. There is a need to change the discourse to that of school as a place for learning, where students lead the learning in line with a curriculum that is dynamic and relevant to the needs of emerging industries.

The curriculum is in need of a massive restructure and overhaul. We must sever the links to an irrelevant and outdated manufacturing industry model. Teaching to remember must be replaced with learning with relevance. To learn with relevance means educational leaders and influencers can benefit from consulting with industry leaders and business owners to drive curriculum planning. It is only through such consultation that significant and empowering change can occur. It is only through empowerment of learning with relevance that we as educators can facilitate students to visualise learning as a lifelong journey with actual relevance and not just a tick the box experience.

This presentation will consider the need to double down on irrelevant standardised testing that breeds conformity and stifles creativity. Instead, we need to focus on funding resources and cognitive factors – thinking, reasoning and learning by doing- to create imaginative and creative problem solvers.

If our aim as educators is to inspire students to aspire for careers in STEM, then there needs to be greater funding and support for collaboration between educators and industry sectors to unite to create a dynamic and relevant curriculum that drives many flow-on benefits.