

Algoma District School Board: 2014 - 2015

Project Title	Educational Technology Leads
Description	<p>Our Educational Technology Lead action plan focuses on system-level professional learning opportunities as well as opportunities for collaboration, co-learning and job-embedded learning with colleagues at the school by assisting teachers with the integration of technology into teaching and learning. In time, this will lead to the deep learning task development and assessment practices enabled by technology. Our multi-year plan fosters teacher-to-teacher, teacher-to-student and student-to-student learning partnerships and real-world, authentic learning tasks enabled by technology supporting the development of 21st century skills, such as collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Our investigation of the Educational Technology Lead role is to determine if there is increased teacher confidence, more integration of technologies into teaching and learning, and higher student engagement in real-world, authentic learning tasks.</p>
Context	<p><i>Number of students:</i> 1200</p> <p><i>Number of teachers:</i> 350 (300 teachers and 50 Technology Leads)</p> <p><i>Number of schools:</i> 36 Elementary Schools & 10 Secondary Schools</p> <p><i>Grades/Program:</i> K-12, Educational Technology Leads (one teacher from every school)</p>
Impact on Students	<p>Many students have been introduced to a variety of new applications and learning tasks enabled by technology to support their learning. The introduction of the ADSB Standards for Digital Learning K-12 is supporting teachers by providing a guide to help integrate technology and digital learning into The Ontario Curriculum, into teaching practice, and into students' repertoire of skills to support and enhance continuous learning. As noted in the data, a majority of the focus was on technology operations and concepts and communication & collaboration. These results are indicative of the focus on the implementation of Office 365 in the first year of this initiative.</p> <p>In many cases, the Educational Technology Leads encouraged a student-to-student and student-to-teacher learning partnership at their schools. The term "technology ambassador" was adopted to describe this partnership where students are taking a lead role to support technology enabled learning. These student "technology ambassadors" offer support for other students and teachers in their schools fostering learning partnerships.</p>
Impact on Instruction	<p>The data indicates there has been a positive impact on teacher practice. In this first year of the initiative we were building capacity with the Educational Technology Lead teachers to improve efficacy with technology and learning opportunities enabled by technology. The Educational Technology Leads were developing teacher-to-teacher learning partnerships with colleagues at their schools. They were provided time to work with teachers at their school in job-embedded opportunities to support teachers and students with authentic</p>

	<p>learning opportunities enabled by technology. The initial survey results indicated that the job-embedded sessions significantly promoted the development of teacher-to-teacher learning partnerships, enabled by technology.</p> <p>The comments by the Educational Technology Leads show that the teacher-to-teacher learning partnerships are improving and resulting in a culture of risk taking and sharing. These student-to-teacher and teacher-to-teacher learning partnerships will be even more important to foster as the classroom environment changes with the introduction of more mobile technology and students bringing their own devices to support learning.</p>
<p>Impact on System</p>	<p>The Educational Technology Lead initiative is contributing to our system scaling and sustaining of pedagogically-driven, technology-enabled practices by building capacity at each site by having one key individual at each school.</p> <p>The vision of the Algoma District School Board is to engage learners in innovative experiences that maximize achievement, build confidence and develop responsible citizens while utilizing technology in purposeful, responsible and innovative ways to support their learning. The Educational Technology Leads are an instrumental team member in the development of the school's professional learning by ensuring that technology is effectively utilized as a learning and teaching tool, supporting the use of technology integration into the curriculum, and providing training and one-to-one support to colleagues through job-embedded professional learning opportunities. Educational Technology Leads play an important role in building capacity at the school and assisting teachers with integrating technology into their deep learning tasks and assessment practices to increase student engagement and to accelerate learning.</p> <p>The Educational Technology Lead role aligns with our Board's strategic goals and is aligned and integrated with other innovative work being conducted with the eLearning and Instructional Lead professional learning communities. The Educational Technology Lead role and technology-enabled learning and teaching is embedded in our Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and our Educational Technology Plan.</p>

NOTE: Information in the summary is taken directly from the data contained in the final project report.