Kenora Catholic District School Board: 2014 - 2015

Project Title	Ideation to Innovation
Description	Our project this year is intended to measure/evaluate how our two primary innovation supports (IdeaLab and Innovative Technology Teachers) are nourishing innovation within our school Board. The Idealab is our structure and process for grassroots innovation. Approved projects receive critical supports which can include human, resource, and physical backing. All projects are 'stewarded' by IdeaLab staff.
	Innovative Technology Teachers (ITTs) serve to support and encourage innovation at the school level. These are teachers in 0.25 to 0.33 FTE positions who have daily time to focus efforts on innovative learning. Their role grew from a technology orientated role, but today their scope is far broader. Our ITTs still act as in-class instructional supports for those taking next steps with learning technologies, but their role has been broadened so they can support projects/learning that isn't entirely focused on technology.
	The *Ideation to Innovation* project represents our intensive attempt to create a sustainable and comprehensive 'mechanism' to promote, foster, support, and scale innovation within our School Board. Our focus is on sustainable innovation throughout the Board. Technology serves two primary roles within our 2014-15 project. Technology serves to empower teaching and learning, and technology serves as a communication medium among staff (and also among staff and students). Most IdeaLab projects involve technology as a component of their work and/or rely on technology as a platform for documentation and communication. Our ITTs also work to ensure that technology is used in purposeful and meaningful ways in instruction.
Context	*Number of students*: 500
	Number of teachers: 43
	Number of schools: 5
	Grades/Program:
Impact on Students	The round 4 initiative we implemented has impacted student learning particularly relating to 21 Century Competencies and Learning Partnerships (student-to-student, teacher-to-student).
	21st Century Competencies - ITTs have not focused as much on 21Cs in 2014-15 as in past years as their scope broadens. However, there is clear evidence in their Annual Plans that 21Cs are still being supported and emphasized at the school level.
	Learning Partnerships - We have come a long way in fostering *Teacher to Student partnerships* in learning, the IdeaLab projects have been instrumental in providing opportunities for staff and students to equally share in the learning. Students are beginning to understand that they are actually making meaningful contributions to the direction of learning within their classrooms.

	• 80% of all ITT Plans included objectives that specifically focused on one or more 21st Century Competency.
	• 100% of ITT Plans include objectives involving teacher to teacher learning partnerships.
	• 18 of 24 students felt that they were partners in learning with their teachers.
	• 22 of 24 students indicated that they used technology for their project.
	• 20 of 24 students indicated that other teachers worked with their teacher during this school year.
Impact on Instruction	Our project this year has had a direct impact on teacher practice with an emphasis on effective technology-enabled instruction and also in forging new learning partnerships (both teacher-to-teacher, and teacher-to-student).
	Our ITTs continue to increase their reach working with more and more staff and students every school year, several IdeaLab projects were also focused specifically around the use of technology in instruction. IdeaLab projects involving technology-enabled instruction overall were quite successful in reaching their learning.
	• 67% of all ITT Objectives have a focus on teaching practice.
	• 100% of ITT Plans include teacher to teacher learning partnerships.
	• 40% of ITT Plans include objectives which involve student to teacher partnerships.
	• 12 Individual IdeaLab Projects involve students as either primary researchers and/or research participants.
	• 28 individual IdeaLab projects involve teams of staff working together within their own schools. 8 individual IdeaLab projects involve teams of staff working together from two or more schools.
Impact on System	System Plans - We have redirected all requests for system level instructional/academic supports to the Idealab. This is the way we work together to meet the needs of our learners. This included the majority of PD requests and it does include all PLC requests. It has become our mechanism for addressing and validating all grassroots ideas, from small scale initiatives to fairly large endeavours with high impact and risk.
	Organizational Processes and Structures – IdeaLab has expanded to include our entire Instructional Services Department. 2 Superintendents, 4 coordinators, 4 special assignment teachers are currently IdeaLab staff. IdeaLab meets every week and includes all staff. Idealab staff are assigned to specific projects and become stewards for the duration of each project.
	Leadership Development – We are currently considering the creation of an Administrator ITT and IdeaLab designated role. This would be a principal who would be an in-school ITT part time and administrator part time. This individual would also be responsible for serving/supporting other school administrators as an ITT.

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