

Ottawa Carleton District School Board: 2014 - 2015

Project Title	“Learning After Labs”
Description	<p>The research initiative will study the impact of changing student access to digital technology from stand-alone computer labs to individual classrooms on developing rich learning tasks involving collaboration-teacher to teacher, student to student and teacher to student. Each classroom will be equipped with at least 5 digital devices including Chromebooks, iPad/tablets or desktops. Teachers and students have access to Google Docs. Students are allowed to bring their own person digital devices.</p> <p>Various professional learning sessions on the creation of deep learning tasks have been provided to teachers throughout the 2014-15 school year as part of the New Pedagogies for Deep Learning Initiative [NPDL]. Teachers are asked to submit samples of deep learning tasks that will be analysed using the SAMR model as a frame or reference to determine changes of practice.</p>
Context	<p><i>Number of students: 1500</i></p> <p><i>Number of teachers: 75</i></p> <p><i>Number of schools: 3</i></p> <p><i>Grades/Program: grades 6-8 all subjects, all strands, all tracks (French Immersion and English)</i></p>
Impact on Students	<p>Principals of the schools have observed students using a variety of devices in the classroom for a variety of purposes. Because the students have choice they are more engaged in their learning. They are using the technology to create new knowledge rather than just consume knowledge. Two principals of the three sites have reported they see students engaged in student to student learning partnerships enabled through technology e.g. creating videos to share with other students.</p>
Impact on Instruction	<p>At one school the principal has noted a significant increase in teacher use of technology. They have gone from 10% of the staff using technology on a regular basis to 100%, including specialist teachers. This is largely due to the fact that the mobile technology is readily available in their classroom and does not have to be booked in advance. With the NPDL initiative being introduced at this school as well as a recent District Review which recommended the school look at the tasks they give their students, teachers are beginning to create deeper and richer learning tasks enabled by technology.</p> <p>At another school, the principal and vice principal reported that the move towards mobile technology was underway through support from the school council. Teachers were using technology on a more regular basis and the percentage of staff using technology regularly to enhance learning was almost 100%. The principal also noted that the focused PD from NPDL helped staff rethink their task creation around school wide units.</p>

<p>Impact on System</p>	<p>The TLF funding has allowed us to purchase mobile equipment to replace aging desktops. Schools are beginning to dismantle labs in favour of embedding mobile equipment in classrooms at a ratio of 1:5 on average.</p> <p>The Digital Learning Advisory Panels are meetings which promote two way communication between schools and central staff surrounding the use and integration of technology of support of deep learning. Participating schools are encouraged to share good practice and effective use of technology in teaching and learning, K to 12.</p> <p>Two additional elementary schools will be outfitted with a variety of mobile equipment embedded in classrooms. Coaching support will be provided to help teachers shift their practice to deep learning enabled with technology. Five secondary schools will be implementing a lending library of Chromebooks to enable students' access to personal devices for use.</p> <p>We are aligning our coaching model so all departments are working in concert rather than in silos. All departments, Curriculum Services, Business and Learning Technologies, Learning Support Services, Early Learning, Inclusive, Safe, and Caring Schools, will be promoting a culture of inquiry and reflection and modeling deep learning enabled by technology.</p> <p>More schools will closing computers labs and focusing on building a variety of mobile equipment in the classrooms so students can choose the appropriate device for the task at hand. Teachers will be planning more deep learning tasks enhanced by technology.</p>
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NOTE: Information in the summary is taken directly from the data contained in the final project report.