

Sudbury Catholic District School Board: 2014 - 2015

Project Title	Creating a Collaborative Culture
Description	<p>Overall, the Sudbury Catholic District School Board will be enhancing and deepening colleague-colleague, teacher-student and student-student collaboration using technology by providing all stakeholders with access to collaborative technological tools (Microsoft Office365) in tandem with the transformation of Secondary School Libraries into Learning Commons to allow for equitable access to a variety of technological devices and tools by students. At present, we have been working on enhancing colleague-colleague collaboration. To facilitate this, The Innovation Research Team has completed the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a Microsoft Office Steering Committee. • Created a 'Microsoft Office at Sudbury Catholic Schools' Support Site. • Created a 'Learning Support Services' Site for the Learning Support Services Department at the School Board. • Begun creating School 'Sites' (to enhance school-level collaboration between colleagues and between school administrators, educators, and support staff). • Have begun to create Grade-Level and 'Subject' specific Sites (e.g. 'English' to provide opportunities for subject-specific teachers to collaborate in synchronous and asynchronous ways through the use of technology.). • Created a series of 'Support Documents' to assist staff members. • Completed a 'pilot' project with one high school teacher and 3 classes of students to acquire a sense of what the student experience will be.
Context	<p><i>Number of students: 59</i></p> <p><i>Number of teachers: 437</i></p> <p><i>Number of schools: 21</i></p> <p><i>Grades/Program: K-12</i></p>
Impact on Students	<p>Given the scale of our research initiative and the strict timelines, we are unable to give a lot of concrete evidence on how this research will impact student learning; however, an early pilot project involving one educator and her three Business classes did reveal that providing students with a uniform set of collaborative tools results in a shift in pedagogy and student learning. The teacher was also able to share a class 'OneNote Notebook' with the students for whole-class synchronous and asynchronous collaboration. According to the teacher, there were, unfortunately, some technical difficulties involving hardware (the computer lab she was working in needed to be upgraded) and WiFi connectivity. As a result, we made infrastructure improvements to improve the experience for the teacher and students.</p>

<p>Impact on Instruction</p>	<p>We are also anticipating a change in assessment practices, particularly in the area of descriptive feedback. Educators will be able to provide 'live feedback' on shared documents. Students will also be able to access this feedback as soon as it has been completed by the educator.</p> <p>We are also seeing the beginnings of an impact on educator learning partnerships with the creation of our first curriculum related Site: Secondary English Teachers Site. This Site is still in the development stage but will be the access point for all secondary high school English teachers at SCDSB who will be involved in an assessment Collaborative Inquiry during the 2015-2016 school year.</p>
<p>Impact on System</p>	<p>This Research initiative is tied to the Board's Innovation vision which is: "we are committed to increasing student engagement and achievement by providing more opportunities to demonstrate knowledge, skill and understanding through the use of technology". Microsoft Office 365 will provide more opportunities for students to become engaged in and demonstrate their learning, and will provide more opportunities for descriptive feedback (through 'shared documents) and improved assessment practices as teachers use Microsoft Sites to collaborate within schools, the elementary and secondary panel, and in transition planning. With Microsoft O365, teachers will be able to collaborate in an on-going manner through the various 'Sites' and shared documents.</p> <p>Additionally, this research is aligned with and deeply rooted in the Board's "Technology Integration Plan" which has been written in draft this year by several members of the Technology Learning Fund Research Team and will be implemented at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.</p>

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