

Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board: 2014 - 2015

Project Title	Educating for the Future – Preparing for the World: Learning Partnerships enabled by Google Apps for Education
Description	<p>During the 2014-2015 school year, the TBCDSB invested in a cloud environment called Google Apps for Education.</p> <p>The purpose of the project is to support technology-enabled learning and teaching by providing teachers and students with access to cloud-based learning environment (GAFE). A professional learning plan was developed to introduce students, teachers, principals and instructional leaders to Google Apps for Education (GAFE). Professional learning opportunities for teachers included workshops, sustained learning through collaborative inquiry, embedded support provided by technology resource teachers, funding and release to attend GAFE summits and support to complete the GAFE Educator certification exams.</p>
Context	<p><i>Number of students: 3500</i></p> <p><i>Number of teachers: 280</i></p> <p><i>Number of schools: 5</i></p> <p><i>Grades/Program: 7-12</i></p>
Impact on Students	<p>The report “Educating for the Future – Preparing for the World” included the following highlights related to impact on students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students were able to complete tasks more independently and happily. • Students had a positive experience with technology for learning. • Students accessed assignment information and communicated more using multiple devices. • Students could complete assignments when away from class. • GAFE enhanced timely and diverse feedback to students regarding their work.
Impact on Instruction	<p>GAFE most frequently had a positive impact on teachers’ ongoing professional learning, assessment and evaluation of student work, responding to needs of individual students, teacher resources for planning learning for a learning community, and teacher resources for planning learning for an individual student.</p> <p>The report “Educating for the Future – Preparing for the World” included the following highlights related to impact on students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-Teacher learning partnership changed, with increased independence, student-centeredness, communication, and feedback. • Responsibility in the Student-Teacher learning partnership became more clear and distributed. • Student-Teacher learning partnership involved more opportunity for different types of communication between teachers and students. • Teachers found it easier to collaborate with other teachers using GAFE.

Impact on System	<p>Technology-enabled learning practices we are scaling up include providing opportunities for students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use technology to articulate their learning • Recognize how to improve their work • Engage in inquiry-based learning • Think critically, make deep connections • Reason and communicate effectively • Make links to their lived world <p>Plans for scaling up the initiative:</p> <p>1. Actions we are taking to DEEPEN the power of our innovation model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a comprehensive professional development plan to build knowledge and understanding of technology-enabled learning and teaching. • Foster a culture of co-learning and collaboration. • Facilitate the development of resources in the school board to support technology-enabled learning and teaching. • Ongoing evaluation and research to understand and enhance causes of effectiveness. <p>2. Actions we are taking to make our innovation model SUSTAINABLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support principals in developing leadership capacity for technology-enabled learning and teaching. • Encourage and support professional learning communities focused on technology-enabled learning and teaching. • Ensure teachers have access to support mechanisms throughout the system, including a supportive professional community of colleagues in the school. • Continue to use a sustainable funding model for hardware purchases to ensure students and teachers have access to necessary resources. <p>3. Actions we are taking to SPREAD our innovation model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide teachers, principals and other educational leaders with ongoing, professional learning and opportunities to collaborate and share. • Include technology-enabled learning and teaching in school and system monitoring. <p>4. Actions we are taking to facilitate SHIFT and EVOLUTION of our model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage teacher leadership for technology-enabled learning and teaching. • Foster a culture of co-learning, collaboration and innovation. • Continue to include principals and teachers on planning and decision-making committees. • Include students on planning and decision-making committees.
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NOTE: Information in the summary is taken directly from the data contained in the final project report.