

Grand Erie District School Board: 2015 - 2016

Project Title	Ed Tech Student Groups
Description	<p>“Ed Tech Student Groups” is a new, formalized approach to including student leaders in the process of teaching others (staff and students) about technology enabled learning and teaching in Grand Erie.</p> <p>We have invited students 3-4 students from each of 15 schools to begin the process of establishing teams in schools that can support staff and students in their respective schools with the use of Ed Tech tools. The support may look like: sharing at staff meetings, setting up a “drop in” center, presenting to classes of students, or creating “how to” resources.</p> <p>Our pilot group of students will be released with their staff advisors to join in 2 full days of professional development in March and April. At these sessions, they will learn about various routine tablet troubleshooting, digital citizenship, and several different digital tools available to staff and students in Grand Erie. Then they will help support further rollout to all the other schools in the Board.</p> <p>We are also developing a course in BrightSpace/D2L where our student leaders can learn more about various Ed Tech tools and earn badges to become certified to support a variety of digital resources. All student leaders will also be able to collaborate within this BrightSpace course to share their learning and support each other through this professional learning network.</p> <p>Our intention is for these Ed Tech Student Groups to grow in every school as an Ed Tech support channel for each school community. This new form of support will benefit the student leaders as they develop new skills in the uses of technology by attending our workshops and by teaching others. It will also help them build leadership skills and further develop in all 21st Century Competencies.</p>
Context	<p><i>Number of students: 60</i></p> <p><i>Number of teachers: 18</i></p> <p><i>Number of schools: 15</i></p> <p><i>Grades/Program: K-12</i></p>
Impact on Students	<p>Our main goal with our ESC students (Ed Tech Student Groups) is to create a learning environment that is more connected to the real world. We want to make a difference with these student groups and get to deeper learning for all (teachers and students alike).</p> <p><u>Connections to the 21st Century Competencies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Thinking & Problem Solving – Students participated a “Tech Quest” where they had to solve various technical issues as well as digital resource questions that support teaching and learning with technology. All of these were real-life examples that teachers and students see in the classroom on a

	<p>regular basis and need to troubleshoot and solve effectively and efficiently to support learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship – Students learned about effective creation of “How To” resources so they could begin to create digital resources to help support their teachers and other students in their schools. Students spent time creating their first “How To” resource together with ESC students from other schools. • Learning to Learn/Self-Aware & Self-Directed Learning – Students observed a variety of role playing scenarios to consider various aspects of customer service since they will be working with a variety of learners coming from different entry points. Students were then asked to discuss with their group and then suggest various improvements to the scenarios. As they work through various mini courses and earn badges for successfully showing their understanding, students must be able to monitor their own learning as they progress. • Collaboration – Students participated in team meetings with other ESC students in their own school and worked with students from other schools. • Communication – Students returned to their schools to share their new knowledge with staff and other students in their schools. Some presented at staff meetings; some join classes to present to groups of students. • Global Citizenship – Students made connections with others ESC students from other schools (outside of their own school community). <p>Through our work with the ESC students, there are greater opportunities for sharing (within schools and between schools). Student isolation is reduced and relationships among students, between students and teachers, and among teachers are developed.</p> <p>We anticipate further impact on students as we move forward with our ESC teams and as we scale up to include more schools and more students per school. We intend to collect more data around the future implementation.</p>
<p>Impact on Instruction</p>	<p>The focus of our initiative was not on teacher practice (at the onset). Our focus was on supporting students on the ESC teams so that they could feel comfortable in supporting their teachers and other students in their schools.</p> <p>We did have some direct impact on the teachers (Staff Advisors) who joined in PD with their ESC team students. We also developed some online tools to help with overall management and sharing.</p> <p>[W]e learned that the establishment of ESC teams has resulted in teachers being more willing and able to leave more progressive (technology dependent) lesson plans for Occasional Teachers. Knowing that students in the class understand what technology needs exist, allows for Occasional Teachers to support the class</p>

	<p>in more similar ways to their regular classroom teacher.</p> <p>Teachers not involved as Staff Advisors were also impacted by the supports provide by the ESC teams as students returned from central training days to share with teachers help support learning their classrooms.</p>
<p>Impact on System</p>	<p>Round 5 of the 21st Century Innovation Research Initiative was not a system rollout, but rather a pilot of our new concept around “Ed Tech Student Groups” Our initial goal was to include students in the learning and teaching experience to help scale up the Ed Tech movement in Grand Erie and help us have a deeper impact at the system level. We wanted to tap into students’ skill sets to help further teachers’ skillset (as well as that of other students). We have shared details and goals of our Ed Tech Student Groups with all administrators via monthly “Director’s Meetings” and have shared with trustees and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Building forward, we plan to expand and scale up to include more schools next year. Specifically, we intend to include the pilot students in helping us train students from other schools. We also anticipate the ESC teams expanding within the existing pilot schools.</p> <p>There are many other exciting and powerful learning opportunities around student and teacher use of technology that we are working on into next year and we continue to seek to share with others on our own successes and the successes of other Boards. Attendance at conferences helped ...contribute to knowledge mobilization around technology enhanced teaching and learning around the province. We’re also building towards development of a Library Learning Commons model and we’ve connected with leaders in the Thames Valley District School Board to learn from their TLF experience around Learning Commons development this year.</p>