

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board: 2015 - 2016

Project Title	Building Strong Pedagogic Practice on a Foundation of Technology Rich Classrooms
Description	<p>Our funding is used to create Networked Learning Communities (NLCs) that bring together teachers from across our system for four or more full days of professional learning. This approach is helping educators build a larger platform on which to discuss the latest research, share new knowledge, create new resources and generally support each other as they begin to create the conditions for technology enhanced 21st Century teaching and learning. The vision behind the creation of NLCs is for the educators involved in the collaborative project to become teacher leaders and “more knowledgeable others” who will help spread new and innovative teaching practices being tried and tested throughout the Board and in other leading educational institutions. This year we have two main pillars, a primary NLC with 31 teachers and a JR/INT NLC with 22 educators.</p>
Context	<p><i>Number of students: 1,237</i>  <i>Number of teachers: 53</i>  <i>Number of schools: 17</i>  <i>Grades/Program: Gr.1-8</i></p>
Impact on Students	<p>Although we don’t have quantitative data in relation to the TLF impacting student achievement at this point, we do believe the TLF Innovation Projects are having a direct impact on: the growth of 21st Century competencies, student engagement, accessibility to information and necessary learning tools made available through Google Apps for Education (Google Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms etc.), digital fluency and capturing and highlighting student thinking and learning through the use of pedagogical documentation. With devices and the learning tools now more accessible to our students, both at school and at home, we feel we are better meeting the needs of all of our learners.</p> <p>One main example of evidence in growth in student learning/achievement is revealing itself through our students’ ability to use the devices to capture, document, reflect on and share their learning with their peers, teachers and parents. The teachers involved in our ongoing projects continuously share artefacts from their classrooms that demonstrate that their students 21st Century learning and digital fluency skills are growing and developing at a rapid rate.</p>
Impact on Instruction	<p>Our funding is used to create Networked Learning Communities (NLCs) that bring together teachers from across our system for four or more full days of professional learning. This approach is helping educators build a larger platform on which to discuss the latest research, share new knowledge, create new resources and generally support each other as they begin to create the conditions for technology-enhanced 21st Century teaching and learning. The vision behind</p>

	<p>the creation of NLCs is for the educators involved in the collaborative project to become teacher leaders and “more knowledgeable others” who will help spread new and innovative teaching practices being tried and tested throughout the Board and in other leading educational institutions.</p> <p>Our data collection is specifically focused on the impact that the NLC community sessions are having on teacher knowledge, understanding and comfort level with the integration of technology and new pedagogies/teaching and learning strategies into their practice.</p> <p>Evidence gathered through using a triangulation of data (observations, conversations in products) and Survey data have indicated that teacher practice has been impacted in ways such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased comfort level integrating technology into their practice</li> <li>• Increased knowledge and understanding of how to provide opportunities for students to use technology to demonstrate their learning</li> <li>• Increased knowledge of online tools available and how they can be used in conjunction to enhance the delivery of the curriculum</li> <li>• Increased confidence and understanding of how tech can be used to improve lesson design and assessment strategies</li> <li>• Increased knowledge and understanding of what it means to use a triangulation of data for assessment <i>for, as</i> and <i>of</i> learning</li> <li>• Increased knowledge of ways to capture evidence of student learning</li> <li>• Increased ability to implement and manage student inquiry</li> <li>• Increased ability to promote and support student collaboration</li> <li>• Increased professional dialogue and reflection with other teacher</li> <li>• Greater understanding of Pedagogical Documentation and how it relates to <i>Growing Success</i> and assessment <i>for, as</i> and <i>of</i> learning</li> </ul>
<p>Impact on System</p>	<p>Strategies and outcomes that we are focused on achieving that scale up and build capacity include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are strategically using a NLC model to provide a support for our educators, and to build capacity across our system.</li> <li>• Our intention and goal is to have provided the necessary training and technology to every classroom teacher by the end of the 2017-2018 school year (we are on target for reaching this goal).</li> <li>• We are providing equalized funding to all schools within our system at a steady rate, which has allowed us to continue to strengthen expertise in the area of technology-enhanced learning.</li> <li>• We are committed to building teacher leadership through this project by having numerous teachers join us (the facilitators) for the planning, design</li> </ul>

	<p>and facilitation of the professional learning sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We regularly present/discuss what we are doing in our NLC sessions at regular Program Team Meetings to ensure alignment with other initiatives that our Board is focused on.</li></ul> <p>Additionally, through the creation and growth of our system-wide NLCs we are able to track the number of educators that have been involved in the projects over the past few years and also the potential student impact. We are able to ensure that all schools across our system are building capacity in regards to the number of educators who are receiving the professional development and also the number of devices that have been purchased for each school site.</p> <p>[T]his funding is making a tremendous impact across our system. The number of our teachers who have received the technology and training through this project is incredible and the work that they are doing in their classrooms is really inspirational. Teachers from previous rounds are showing great leadership in the field of technology-enhanced learning and they are continuously emerging as leaders amongst their peers within their schools as well as showing a willingness to share their learning and their passion with others at our NLCs. Without a doubt their learning is impacting both student learning and student engagement!</p>
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