



The Institute for
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Job-embedded professional development for all members of the organization **Algoma District School Board**

Our thinking was that we wanted to be able to support our teachers with their use of technology in a way that was non-threatening and would allow them to feel safe in experimenting with new applications, devices and programs. We did not want to take teachers out of their schools as we've learned from feedback that teachers like working in smaller groups and being able to have support at their school site. Thus, we decided to experiment with job-embedded learning by having and developing a support person at every school.

THE "WHAT" ... HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT

Educational Technology Lead

Teachers at the Algoma District School Board are engaging students in innovative experiences that maximize achievement, build confidence and develop responsible citizens while utilizing technology in purposeful and responsible ways to support their learning. They are focused on preparing our students for success in a collaborative, dynamic, technology-intensive and increasingly connected world. An Educational Technology Lead role has been created to support teachers with technology integration and to provide the necessary training and one-on-one support. Every school in our system has a teacher who courageously stepped forward to accept the Educational Technology Lead role. These teachers have approached the role with an "open to learning" approach and a willingness to engage in co-learning to continually refine and extend their repertoire of technology based teaching strategies

The Educational Technology Leads are building positive relationships and establishing respect and trust while assisting teachers with the integration of technology into the curriculum and effectively using technology as a learning and teaching tool. They are engaged in co-planning with teachers to create deep learning tasks that incorporate the use of technology. They are also showcasing and demonstrating current technology to colleagues and students and are providing school-based technology in-service, small group training and one-on-one support. The Educational Technology Leads nurture teacher-to-teacher, teacher-to-student and student-to-student learning partnerships at the schools.

The Educational Technology Leads participate in on-going professional learning as a collaborative group to explore new technologies and deepen their understanding and efficacy with technology-enabled learning and teaching. They are provided with release time to collaborate with colleagues in job-embedded professional learning at their schools

to support the integration of technology into real-world, authentic learning tasks enabled by technology, the planning of deep learning tasks and assessment practices.

Educational Technology Leads are supporting a shift in innovative practices and continuous improvement. The job-embedded support provided by the Educational Technology Leads is empowering teachers to confidently take ownership of and improve efficacy with technology-enabled learning and teaching leading to a shift in classroom practice. As a system, ETLs are the sustainability we need to ensure consistency and support is site based to support technology changes within the learning environment.

Algoma District School Board's "Standards for Digital Learning"

The Educational Technology Leads utilize the Algoma District School Board's "Standards for Digital Learning" and the Board's Technology Plan to support a culture of inquiry and reflection to continue innovative practices and continuous improvement through technology-enabled learning and teaching practices. The "Standards for Digital Learning" document is a framework for students, educators and administrators to utilize technology as a tool for learning and teaching for K to 12 students. With the overall goal of improving student achievement, this "Standards" document is a guide to help teachers integrate technology and digital learning into The Ontario Curriculum, into teaching practice and into our students' repertoire of skills to support and enhance continuous learning. The "Standards for Digital Learning" document supports teachers in this rapidly changing digital landscape, offers multiple entry points to accommodate teachers in their digital learning skills continuum journey and suggests various technology experiences to prepare our students for the future.

Feedback from our teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. Teachers liked being able to access support at school and having someone in the building who can "pace" their learning, answer questions, provide support and encourage them to take risks. Providing "just in time" support fosters a culture of learning and an environment where staff can take risks and experiment with new ideas while being supported by colleagues.