

Technology and High School Success Initiative Participant Newsletter

March
2009

Spring 2009 Grant Recipients' Meeting May 5 & 6, 2009

The Technology and High School Success Spring 2009 Grant Recipients' Meeting will be held on **May 6, 2009 at Mount Royal College in Calgary**. A number of topics will be addressed at this meeting, including:

- The August interim report;
- Managing project change;
- The provincial research program; and
- Specific project presentations.



Once again, Technology and High School Success participants are invited to the optional **Professional Learning Event on May 5, 2009**. Project Teams are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Several concurrent sessions are being offered that address a number of topics including assessment for learning, Universal Design for Learning, self-directed learning, authentic learning experiences, student engagement and student-owned devices.

Registration is now open! Follow the registration link below to see the draft agenda, a list of nearby accommodations and to access the registration form.

Registration Link - www.timewiseevents.com/emerge

See you in Calgary!

Speak Out - Alberta Student Engagement Initiative



In January, students had the opportunity to share their thoughts, opinions and experiences regarding technology through the *Speak Out* Student Engagement Initiative website. The results of the technology survey are available using the link below.

Alberta Education's *Speak Out Student Engagement Initiative* is encouraging Alberta youth from diverse backgrounds and experiences to share their perspectives on the education system through the interactive website, www.speakout.alberta.ca.

[Click here to view the results of the technology survey.](#)



Message from the Research Team

The research team (U of A, U of C and Galileo Educational Network Association) will be visiting each of the jurisdictions to see the projects firsthand. **We hope to be able to visit most of the projects in April and May.** If we have not contacted you yet, we will be doing so in the very near future. We appreciate all of the help that we have been receiving from the project leads and others within the jurisdiction.

With a project like this, one of the challenges that we face is trying to measure something as elusive as “success.” **We have decided to gather data from a number of different sources to get a better picture of what is happening.** While this is still an imperfect approach, we believe that it will give us the best opportunity to measure what is going on, and at the same time have the flexibility to adapt to the individual circumstances of each district and/or school.

Students are key to this study, and **the primary tool that we are planning to use is a short (5 to 10 minutes) online student survey.** This survey is designed to help us gather information regarding student technology use and student engagement. While the survey allows for a wide range of students to provide data, it does not allow for a deeper understanding of the students’ experiences. **In order to delve a bit deeper, we would also like to make classroom observations and conduct focus groups of 8 to 12 students.**

As teachers also play a critical role, **we have developed an online survey for teachers as well as a teacher focus group.** We would like to meet with various other project stakeholders, including principals, district administration, project leads and technology support personnel, during our site visit. This will be done in either one-on-one interviews or focus groups, depending on how many people are willing and able to speak with us.

As this is a lot to ask, we would really like to organize it in such a way that we fit within your schedules and do not overburden the students or staff. We will continue to work closely with each of you to arrange these site visits at a time that is convenient for you.

Thanks again for all of your help and we look forward to visiting you in the near future. If you have any questions about the research layer of the Technology and High School Success project, please contact:

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Technology and High School Success Website

The Technology and High School Success website, which is accessible to the public, provides general information on the project, a list of project participants, project events, resources and contact information. The Technology and High School Success website is available at <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/techsuccess.aspx>.

March 2009
Stakeholder Technology Branch

Student Engagement Webinar Series

There are still spaces available for Cheryl Lemke's webinar series on student engagement. Participants in the Technology and High School Success and Emerge initiatives are invited to participate in this webinar series. The series will consist of **3 webinars**, followed by **a face-to-face session** at the spring professional learning event on May 5, 2009. The goals of the series are to increase teachers' understanding of the research link between engagement and student learning, build the capacity of teachers in measuring student engagement, develop teachers' skill in self-assessments of classroom engagement and develop the teachers' capacity to interpret and use the resultant data to inform their work.

Cheryl will also provide the following materials to participants:

- **Self-assessment tools** for teachers for reflection on classroom practices related to engagement (i.e., content, process, product indicators);
- **Practice guides** highlighting research on classroom practices that work to increase student engagement ; and
- **A template for teacher analysis and interpretation of data** and the use of data and research to inform decision making.



Dates:

- ~~Session 1 – February 23, 2009, 4:00 – 5:30 PM~~ *Complete*
- Session 2 – March 24, 2009, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
- Session 3 – April 15, 2009, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
- Face-to-face event – May 5, 2009

To register, please click on this link:

<https://phoenix.edc.gov.ab.ca/surveys/web/surveys/NMZQ7R/>

Province-wide Adobe Cumulative Licensing Program

Alberta Education has entered into Adobe's Cumulative Licensing Program (CLP). This allows all Alberta school authorities to access the highest level of discount on Adobe products, and is expected to save school authorities an average of 50% on Adobe product purchases. Adobe products are widely used across the education system, including Career and Technology Studies courses.

More information on the Adobe CLP, including what software titles are available through the CLP and how to register your jurisdiction as an affiliate with Alberta Education's master agreement, is available on the School Technology section of the Alberta Education website at <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/standards/software.aspx>.

Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning Initiative



The **Year One research results** for *Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning* initiative are now available. This report was compiled from the results of teacher, student and administrator surveys, as well as researcher site visits. The Metiri Group and the University of Calgary are conducting the province-wide research for the initiative. The report includes year one results and recommendations

The Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning initiative is a three-year, \$5.7 million initiative developed in response to a growing trend towards laptop use in the classroom. Now in its second year, Emerge has 20 participating jurisdictions, 50 schools, and over 2,200 students.

The report is available online on the [Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning website](#).

For more information, contact Karen Shipka, Project Manager, at Karen.Shipka@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-427-6961.

Cyber Bullying Resources

The Media Awareness Network has developed a series of lessons, in English and French, to give students a better understanding of the ethical and legal implications of cyber bullying and to promote positive Internet use. This free resource, *Cyber Bullying: Encouraging ethical online behaviour*, is available at <http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/educational/lessons/cyberbullying.cfm>.

Alberta Education has a licensing agreement with Media Awareness Network to provide all K-12 school jurisdictions with the *Web Awareness* professional learning resource for teachers on Internet safety and cyber bullying. For more information on this resource, and other resources, visit <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/standards/internetsafety.aspx>.

Tech.News

tech.news a monthly newsletter targeted to technology leaders in school jurisdictions and post-secondary institutions. Produced by Alberta Education's Stakeholder Technology Branch, the newsletter includes information on new technology-related initiatives, upcoming events, and information on new resources.

To subscribe to tech.news, please send an e-mail through your school jurisdiction, post-secondary institution or other stakeholder organization e-mail account to tech.news@gov.ab.ca, and enter "Subscribe to tech.news" in the subject line.

Send your questions or suggestions to Wendy Nero at Wendy.Nero@gov.ab.ca.

Technology and High School Success Contact Information

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