

Report For Evidence-Based Project's Financial Support

**Note to reader: Modified version of report submitted by board. Financial information has been removed for sharing purposes.*

During the 2014-2015 school year, the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) continued its implementation of PLC schools in eight of its settings (2 high schools, 6 elementary schools) and began the implementation in six others (1 Adult Education Centre, 5 elementary schools). The proposal (see end of report for details) presented in October 2014 was respected, with the exception of the April 2015 PLC Support Day (decision was made to hold these support sessions at the local level instead of centrally, where a member of the Pedagogical Services Team was present) and the development of the PLC Toolkit (resources have been collected, but this will remain a priority for 2015-2016). The Pedagogical Services Team also continued to deepen its own understanding of PLCs to better accompany school teams.

Funding Details

The funding received from the Evidence-Based Project helped support the following:

- PLC Hybrid Conference & ETSB Support Days – release for teachers, food & travel
- PLC Hybrid Conference & ETSB Support Days – travel expenses for teachers (food and travel)
- Remainder of expenses covered by ETSB funding (Pedagogical Services Department, as well as Teacher, Administrator & Professional PIC)

At this time, each school and centre is at a different phase in its implementation of the PLC structure but the one commonality remains: determination to become highly effective PLC schools, where teachers are collaborating to meet the needs of all students. For the next school year (2015-2016), our intent is to continue accompanying the same fourteen school teams, with a focus on data literacy and common formative assessment for the new teams.

Furthermore, our plan is to have:

- an external PLC Coach work with our Pedagogical Services Team and principals to increase the leadership role needed for successful PLC implementation;
- a small ETSB delegation visit the Halifax Regional School Board to obtain another pulse of a PLC district;
- virtual meetings with mature PLC teams from an Ottawa district meet with some of our PLC teams;
- a PLC toolkit developed.

Thanks to the financial support from various sources, ETSB was able to pursue its stimulating educational voyage to continue better meeting its students' needs to ensure their academic success and we are looking forward to another productive year in 2015-2016. A special thank you for the continued support from the Evidence-Based Project team.

Report submitted by:
Kandy Mackey, Director of Pedagogical Services
July 2, 2015

October 2014 Proposal

PLC Hybrid Conference – September 25 & 26, 2014

- First Things First: Building the Solid Foundation of a Professional Learning Community at Work
- Building the Collaborative Culture of a Professional Learning Community at Work
- Leaders Wanted: Keys to Effective Leadership in Professional Learning Communities at Work
- Raising the Bar and Closing the Gap: Whatever It Takes in Elementary Schools or High Schools
- Common Formative Assessments: The Lynchpin of the PLC Process

PLC Support Days – November 12, 2014 & April 22, 2015

The key to successful integration of any professional development is to ensure there is follow up/support and hence the PLC Support Days, where school teams are removed from their busy school life to refocus their energies and share how the transfer of the content (data analysis, common formative assessment, PLC pathways) is progressing within each setting. The purpose of these structured days will be to share experiences, tools, resources, deepen the learning of the PLC structure, data analysis, and formative assessments, and prioritize in-school support needed and next steps. We will also take time with Mature PLC teams from Ottawa (elementary and secondary) to share their experiences and journey.

It is important to note that the ETSB Pedagogical Services members will accompany PLC teams at the local level and the Director of Pedagogical Services will collaborate with the Project Leader of the Evidence-Based Practice to develop a toolkit to support consultants in this role. Also, she will orchestrate monthly Principal PLC Sharing meetings to ensure principals learn from one another and remain focused on a rich implementation, while supporting one another.