



ONTARIO PUBLIC  
SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

## EFFECTIVE PRACTICES IN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

(For the purposes of this survey alternative education is defined as any program/approach that supports students who are not successfully engaged in school and require an alternate delivery model)

**School Board:** Simcoe County District School Board

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**Name of Program/Initiative/Strategy:** Right Turn Program - eLearning Outreach for Grade 9 &

**10 Hyperlinks to Documents or Website(s) Describing this Program/Initiative/Strategy:**

### Description of Program/Initiative/Strategy

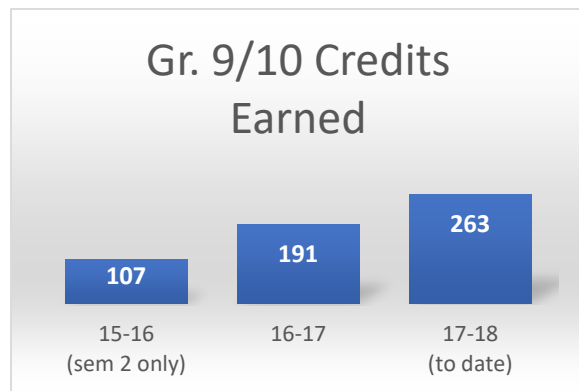
The focus is on programs/initiatives/strategies that increase student engagement, confidence, achievement and well-being. In the brief description please provide answers to the following questions: Where the program/initiative/strategy is delivered (school/board locations)? Who is responsible for delivering and monitoring the program/initiative/strategy? Who is the target audience? Are there any community partnerships involved? Are there any staffing or budget implications? Are there any special resources required? What are your indicators of success, etc.?

The SCDSB's Lengthy Suspension & Expulsion Program is called the "Right Turn Program". The Ministry recently added 'prevention strategies' to the mandate of the Suspension Program. This created an opportunity to become more strategic in preventing suspensions and disengagement through the combination of eLearning, caring adult & flexible programming. Partnering with the Student Success department, a 3-year pilot was launched whereby 2 of the 5 Right Turn teachers and 1 Student Success teacher were designated **eLearning Outreach**. Housed within an Adult Learning Centre and working as a team, the teachers provided grade 9 & 10 credits through eLearning (D2L platform) with face to face outreach conferences with student and parent.

Through a referral process these students were deemed at-risk of not earning their credits. Due to health & mental health issues they were not coming to school. In the past, many of these students would have been suspended for not attending. We now had a new way to connect with students and help them earn their credits. This was a continuous intake model.

The students could work on one credit at a time or up to several credits at a time. Their program was customized to their needs.

**What has been the impact on Student Learning?**



The first year of the pilot (2015/16) is for semester 2 only and with 2 teachers. The next two years we increased to three teachers. The most impactful change in practice was also requiring all students to start with the Learning Strategies before proceeding to subject specific credits.

The most important feature of this program is the 'outreach' of the teachers to meet face to face with the students. Developing a relationship both online and in person is essential for student well-being and achievement.

The goal of the program is to support the student in earning 16 credits by 16 years of age and to reengage them back into regular programming. Students, their parents and their home school administrators have praised the flexibility of the program and the focus of meeting the students where they are and going from there.