



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: Trillium Lakelands DSB

Contact Person and Email Address: Steven Roffe steven.roffe@tldsb.on.ca

Name of Program/Initiative/Strategy: Virtual Learning Centre

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

www.virtuallearning.ca

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 Virtual Learning Centre is based in Lindsay, ON, and services are delivered province wide. It is an eLearning program offering a broad range of secondary courses to a wide range of students. The VLC is a semester-based program and offers flexible access to Ontario secondary credits to students who may not be able to attend a bricks and mortar school building. Courses can be taken from anywhere with a reliable high-speed internet connection. Students have access to three live sessions per week with teachers. Live lessons are recorded for those who are unable to attend scheduled classes. The program is seeing a growth in numbers of students with mental wellness concerns, physical health issues and factors preventing traditional school attendance.

This program is staffed with 21 FTE permanent teachers, supplemented by continuing education staff as required.

The program requires an LMS with capabilities beyond the provincial LMS.

Success indicators include the numbers of credits issued, pass and retention rates.

What has been the impact on Student Learning?

The impact of this program on student learning is significant. Students who would not otherwise have access to Ontario Credits are engaged in learning and working towards graduation.

The program successfully granted approximately 2000 credits for the past two semesters and is on track to deliver the same number this semester. Pass rates are approximately 90% of registered students.