

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Program Standing Committee

FROM: Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
INITIATIVES AND ACTION PLAN**

1. Background

The Simcoe County District School Board's Information and Communication Technology Strategic Plan is an important component in the Board's plan for improved student achievement. The ICT Strategic Plan aligns with the Multi-Year Plan; *The Simcoe Path*, and the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement with a focus on the need to use technology effectively to assist with the drive for improved student achievement for all students in the SCDSB. Report No. PRO-I-1, **Information and Communication Technology Strategic Plan and 2009 – 2010 Projects** dated January 6, 2010 and Report No. PRO-I-5, **Information and Communication Technology Strategic Plan Status Report and Plans for 2010-2011** dated April 7, 2010 were presented to the Chairperson and Members of the Program Standing Committee during the last school year.

An action plan has been developed and the implementation of a number of the strategies is underway that will link and connect the use of technology to improve student achievement in a sustainable manner. The ICT strategic plan's themes and strategies, and the vision of the ICT strategic plan are embedded in the plan and the strategies. Each activity undertaken provides an element of the comprehensive use of technology in teaching and learning. Together these activities across the SCDSB are intended to contribute to improved outcomes for our students. The development of each of these strategies over a multiple year basis will contribute to the effective use of technology in our classrooms. The goals of relevant, purposeful learning supporting high achievement, well-being and learning for life, and confidence in public education from *The Simcoe Path* are evident specifically in the Digital Citizenship action plan as part of this report.

Leading our teachers and principals in the use of technology and data to inform instructional practice has been a significant focus through the SCDSB Board Improvement Plan. School leaders are required to bring forward data to support their Professional Learning Communities' efforts. Action research projects, investigating the effective use of technology and its impact on student achievement are a key component in the development of strategies to achieve specific goals. Principals and vice-principals have utilized data to support initiatives in their schools, and to demonstrate the needs of their students.

Key to the effective use of technologies in schools has been the increased awareness of the need to engage today's learner with the many tools available in our schools. The use of technologies in SCDSB classrooms is evident in the use of mobile devices by staff, the growing use of access to technology in a number of different forms, the in-school coaching model, and school-based Professional Learning Communities with a technology focus. Consistent, system-wide use of technology is a goal that is being addressed with the elements initiated in this ICT action plan.

2. Alignment of Plans

Within *The Simcoe Path*, there are a number of goals and directions that are directly connected to the initiatives undertaken in the ICT Action Plan.

Of note below is an example of the development of a goal, Digital Citizenship, that has links from *The Simcoe Path* to the Board Improvement Plan to the ICT Strategic Plan and the resulting action plan.

Goal: Relevant, purposeful learning supporting high achievement, well-being and learning for life

DIRECTION:

- Evidence of professional learning communities targeting:
 - differentiated instruction, assessment and evaluation
 - evidence-based, collaborative instructional practice
- Supported integration of technology for teaching and learning
- Design and delivery of effective and appropriate programs which meet individual learner needs
- Engaging parents and community partners in supporting student learning

Goal: Confidence in public education

DIRECTION:

- Integrate "Commit to Character" attributes in teaching, learning and leading
- Promote and sustain safe, healthy, respectful and welcoming learning and working environments
- Include the voices of our diverse communities
- Understand, identify and remove the barriers in order to achieve student sense of belonging and future prospects
- Lead in global, environmental and socially responsible citizenship
- Promote shared leadership with school and community partners

The Board Improvement Plan identifies the use of technology, recognizing it directly, as a support and a tool focused on improved student achievement in all SCDSB schools, K- 12.

Digital Citizenship

Ensure that classroom instruction includes how to access resources, connect with others and create e-communities (digital literacy) and learn about the ethical/legal and safety issues surrounding access and use of information technologies.

Ensure that each school develops a plan for integration of digital citizenship incorporating scope and sequence developed by Information Communication Technology Committee.

The ICT Strategic Plan outlines a specific strategy with a focus on the development of digital citizenship among all students in the SCDSB and targeted instruction in the areas of digital citizenship from the framework provided by the ISTE NETS (APPENDIX A).

Citizenship

SCDSB will implement mandatory staff training to support its requirement that all staff agree to acceptable use of technology standards.

SCDSB will introduce age-appropriate student curriculum expectations related to the use of technology and digital resources in school setting and for life.

SCDSB will encourage and support student-directed structures and resources aimed at digital citizenship and protection of privacy.

SCDSB will develop and in-service staff on legal rights and responsibilities when using technology to engage students in learning and families in supporting learning.

Inherent in the development of these elements is that the development of the skills of how to use technology effectively must be accompanied by the knowledge of how to use technology in an ethical and responsible manner.

3. Next Steps

The following initiatives are being put in place during the 2010-2011 school year. All of these initiatives are aligned with specific focus on the Simcoe Path, and the Board Improvement Plan.

- Establishment of the local FOS Information Technology Team including the outlining of professional development (APPENDIX B)
- Implementation of Mini Notebook Computers provisioned to all teachers in five Families of Schools (FOS), the first year of a four year rollout
 - Training in the taking of attendance using the computers
 - Professional development in the use of the range of software
 - Introduction to the video streaming capabilities of the computers
- Installation of LCD projectors - one for every four rooms in the five FOS provisioned with notebook computers
- Development and in-service of teachers in the use of the SCDSB Digital Citizenship Scope and Sequence program.
 - Piloting lessons and training in the development of the lessons based on the ISTE NETS
- Establishment of Advanced Broadband Enabled Learning (ABEL) accounts for all teachers in the SCDSB.
 - Training and in-service on the effective use of the collaboration tools within this environment
- Development of the Parent Portal to facilitate effective ongoing communication with parents and the communities we serve
- Replacement of current filtering system and implementation of a filtering system that recognizes users based on level of use and individual password
- Introduction of the Guest Wireless system across the SCDSB allowing the use of non-Board devices in all schools by staff and students
- Investigation of digital text resources and implementation of other technology enabled initiatives (e-learning and video streaming)

The status of each initiative is coordinated and supported through the Information Technology Steering Committee.

4. **Report Status**

This report is provided for information.

Respectfully submitted by:

John Dance
Superintendent of Education

October 6, 2010

Digital Citizenship – Scope and Sequence

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9/10	11/12
Etiquette	Introduction	→ Explicit	→ Review								
Communication		Introduction		→ Explicit	→ Review						
Literacy	Introduction		→ Explicit	→ Review							
Access		Introduction	→ Introduction	→ Explicit	→ Review						
Commerce			Introduction	→ Introduction	→ Review						
Law				Introduction	→ Introduction	→ Review					
Rights & Responsibility					Introduction	→ Introduction	→ Review				
Health & Wellness			Introduction	→ Introduction	→ Review						
Security		Introduction	→ Introduction	→ Review							

Please note: Where an element is identified in a grade with a qualifier (introduction, explicit, or review), teachers are expected to integrate this into one or more lessons in a subject area as appropriate. Sample lessons are provided in the document for consideration.

The arrows between qualifiers indicate that teachers should continue to integrate the elements that have been previously taught as teachable moments provide the opportunity within the curriculum and experiences in each classroom.

Role of the Family of Schools Technology Committee:

- review the School Improvement Plan with each Family of Schools Principal to determine how to integrate technology to support instructional goals;
- from the review of School Improvement Plan, assess needs of each school to determine ICT professional development support required and equipment needed;
- based on the needs assessment, cluster school needs for area, prioritize needs and align to other board and Ministry Initiatives i.e.; School Effectiveness Framework, LNS priorities, curriculum revisions, Student Success, etc. ;
- determine Family of Schools focus for ICT Integration;
- communicate with Superintendents of Education K-12, Principal of Special Education, and Principal of Curriculum to review the alignment of support through coaches, Professional Collaboration Sites, and IRTs;
- develop a plan based on the Family of Schools ICT Integration focus, for professional development support for schools within the Family of Schools;
- review funding sources;
- monitor needs and next steps based on ICT focus; and
- communicate next steps and needs related to focus to the ICT Steering Committee for review and decision making.