



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: Open School Ontario

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

www.openschoolontario.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.?

Open School Ontario 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. Open School is a continuous intake eLearning program that allows students to take secondary math, science and English credits at their own pace. Courses can be taken from anywhere with a reliable high-speed internet connection. Students are supported by teachers and a framework of milestones to help keep them on track to course completion. This program is serves up to 60 students at a time whose traditional school attendance is impacted mental wellness concerns, physical health issues and other factors preventing traditional school attendance. In certain circumstances, the program supports suspended and expelled students from Trillium Lakelands DSB.

This program is staffed with 1.67 FTE permanent teachers, funded by the independent study register in most cases.

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 continue to work towards graduation.

Pass rates vary in this course and student retention and re-engagement are ongoing work in Open School. Approximately 40 credits have been issued for the past two years. Demand for places in Open School is high indicating the need for this program.