

A Historical and Provincial Summary of eLearning Best Practices



Questions

- Please raise your hand if you have taken an online course in the last 3 years.
- Please raise your hand if you have **taken** an online course developed by the Ministry of Education in the last 3 years.
- Please raise your hand if you have **seen** an online course developed by the Ministry of Education
- Please raise your hand if you know which online courses your local school board currently offers and how students can register for them.



Why should you believe me?

- 35 + years in education
- Last 18 years focused on eLearning:
 - at the classroom level
 - at the Board level
 - at the Provincial level
 - at the Ministry level
- **International Innovator of the Year**
for my work in elearning in Ontario.

**My
observations
are based on
my:**

- Province-wide experience with most of the 72 School Boards
- Conversations with hundreds of elearning teachers
- Experiences teaching online courses to more than 250 secondary students
- Collaboration with the Coordinators of the three provincial eLearning Consortiums
- Ongoing discussions with national and international elearning leaders



News ▾

BOH4M Last Note ▾

Posted Jul 26, 2019 12:34 PM

Congratulations Everyone! We officially finished off our course today. I am extremely happy that everyone had their final exam in before the deadline! :-)

I am also very impressed with the final reports. This project really brings the course together. Your creativity and passion will make you all great leaders.

Keep an eye out in your emails for your final grade. You should see this Sunday or Monday.

Enjoy your summer and thank you for a great month.

Mr. O'Connor

Highlighted Discussions from each Unit ▾

Posted Jul 24, 2019 8:42 AM

Unit 1 – Foundations of Management

- Introduction Post (see below the due dates) – Due: Tuesday, July 2
- Activity #4 - Discussion Post - Your Digital Footprint – Due: Monday, July 8

Unit 2 – Leading

- Activity #2 – Discussion – Attitude in the Workplace – Due: Friday, July 12
- Activity #5 – Discussion Leadership Styles Due: Monday, July 15

Unit 3 – Challenges

Calendar ▾

Tuesday, October 29, 2019 ▾

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
29	30	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30		

Upcoming events

The d

Virtual Learning Environment (vLE)

The online classroom which includes a variety of tools and resources, including course content, to assist with teaching and learning.

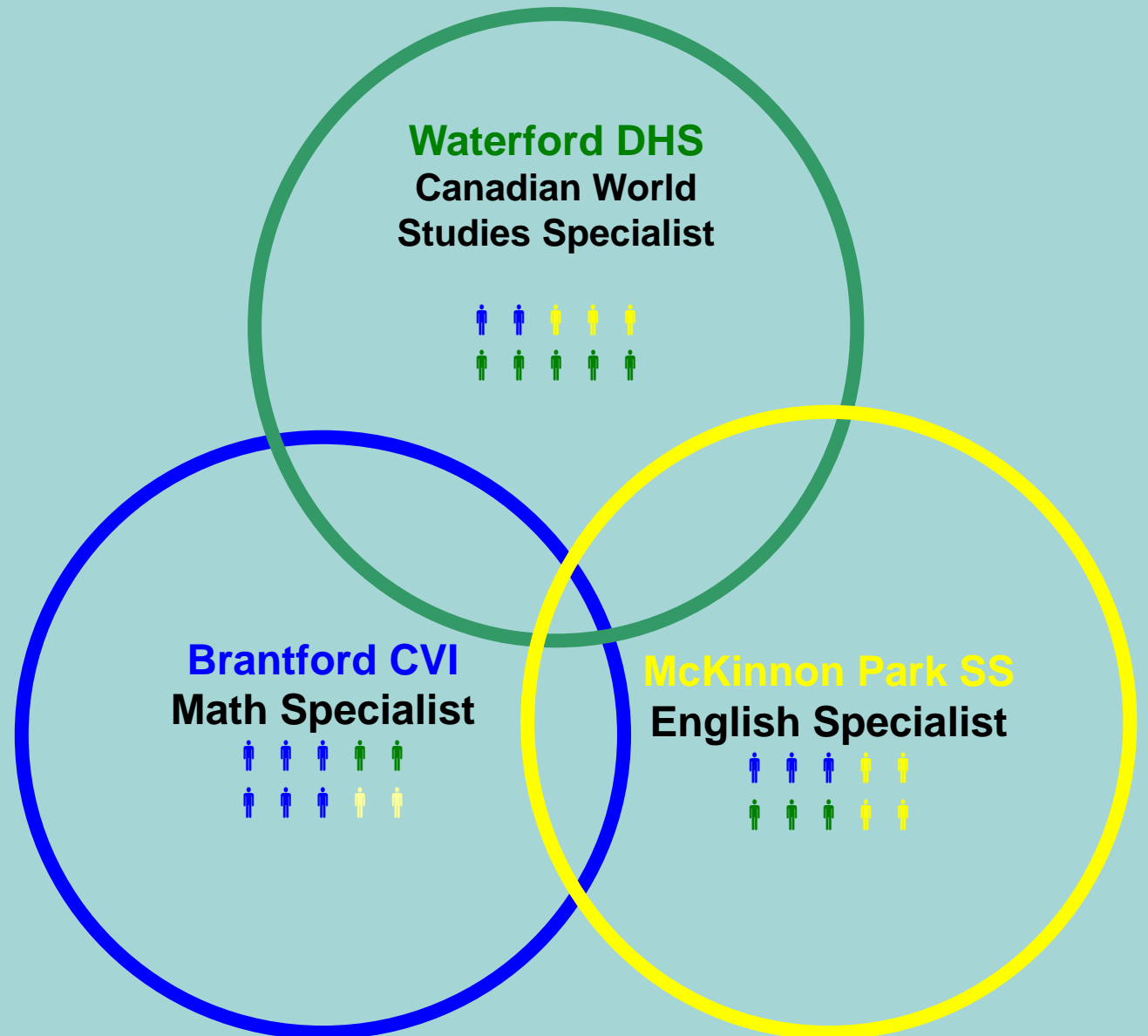


eLearning

The use of the tools of the vLE when the elearning teacher and students and/or students and each other are not in the same location at the same time.

Why eLearning?

- Declining enrolment
- Schools cannot run a course for one or two students or even 15 students.
- Enroll students from every school in an online course.



Accessibility



All Boards must offer their students access to online courses to ensure all students can take the courses they need for graduation and post-secondary pathways.

What about a vLE?

- Each Board had to negotiate, license and support their own vLE.
- To reduce costs, several Boards formed Consortiums and shared a single vLE.



Provincial Licensing

The Ministry of Education licenses a provincial-wide vLE which it provides free-of-charge to Boards.

The screenshot displays the Brightspace 2nd Grade virtual learning environment. At the top, the header includes the 'Brightspace | 2nd Grade' logo on the left and navigation icons (grid, mail, chat, bell) and a user profile for 'Megan Reed' on the right. Below the header is a row of eight icons with labels: 'Course Home' (house), 'Content' (book), 'My Portfolio' (pink square with face), 'Spelling' (hand holding a pencil), 'BrainPOP!' (orange head), 'Math Practice' (green 'IXL' logo), 'Cool Sites' (grid of colorful squares), and 'Logout' (door with red arrow). The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features an 'Activity Feed' section with a 'Create a post...' button and a 'Latest Posts' section containing two message cards. The first message card, dated November 13, 2017, at 10:32 AM, says 'Don't forget: we have our field trip to the museum next week! Funster might be making an appearance too...' and has a comment box. The second message card, dated September 24, 2017, at 3:59 PM, says 'Today we will be adding our Mystical Beast pictures to our Portfolios.' and also has a comment box. The right column features an 'Announcements' section with two posts. The first announcement, titled 'Caught Being Good!', is dated October 2, 2017, at 4:53 PM, and includes a red square icon with a single eye and the text 'Eye See You!'. It lists three students: Erica, George, and Angela, each with a thank-you message for a specific action. The second announcement, titled 'Funster!', is dated November 11, 2017, at 12:31 PM.

Brightspace | 2nd Grade

Course Home Content My Portfolio Spelling BrainPOP! Math Practice Cool Sites Logout

Activity Feed

Create a post...

Latest Posts

Message • November 13, 2017 10:32 AM

Don't forget: we have our field trip to the museum next week! Funster might be making an appearance too...

Write a comment...

Message • September 24, 2017 3:59 PM

Today we will be adding our Mystical Beast pictures to our Portfolios.

Write a comment...

Announcements

Caught Being Good!

Posted Oct 2, 2017 4:53 PM

"Eye" See You!

Thank you, **Erica** - I caught you saying "Please" and "Thank you!"

Thank you, **George** - I caught you returning books to the classroom library.

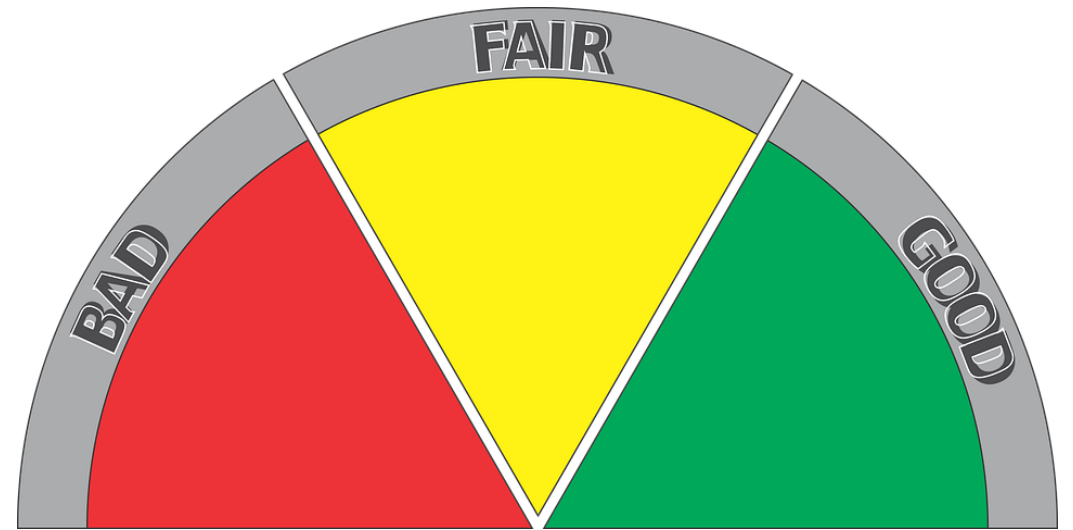
Thank you, **Angela** - I caught you lending a classmate a pencil.

Funster!

Posted Nov 11, 2017 12:31 PM

What about online courses?

- Each Board or teacher wrote their own online courses.
- Quality varied drastically.



Centralized, Standardized Online Course Writing

Free access to approximately **100 online courses** which are:

- responsive in design so they can be viewed on any device: a desktop computer, a laptop, a tablet, a smartphone or printed
- meet the same rigor and time requirement (110 hours) as face-2-face courses.



Is there any evidence of the effectiveness of eLearning?

Ontario's model with local support and access has completion rates comparable to or better than classroom-based courses with up to 93% completion in some programs (Barbour & LaBonte, 2018).

The Consortium d'apprentissage virtuel de langue française de l'Ontario had only a 4% elearning failure rate during the 2009-10 school year (Barbour, 2010).

How are students supported in their online courses?

- Both online and in their home school
- Many schools have an eHub or Learning Commons, where students can use the school's computers to work on their online courses with a teacher is available to provide support.





What does an online teacher do?

- guide classroom discussions;
- provide opportunities for collaboration and interaction;
- conduct assessment for, as, and of learning using the vLE.
- provide face-to-face or real time support (e.g., orientation, tutorials, remediation).

What about teacher training?

- Technology Enabled Learning and Teaching Contact (TELT-C)
- Bringing Online Learning Teachers Together (BOLTT) conference
 - Toronto in the fall
 - Ottawa in the spring



What about assessment?



Assessment Specialist ensures:

- comprehensive set of assessment strategies **for, as, and of** learning
- demonstration of learning
- effective timely feedback

What happens when a student falls behind?

- Progress of every student tracked:
 - Login and log out times,
 - Units and lessons completed,
 - Assignments submitted,
 - Discussion posts read,
 - Curriculum expectations met.
- Student flagged; teacher notified







What about students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP)?

- IEP indicated on registration
- Teacher can see indicator
- Home school asked to send a copy to online teacher
- Support team created

What about students with special needs?

- Quality Assurance check
- Narrated lesson-by-lesson
- Screen-reader compatible
- AODA compliant

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

 **AODA** 

What about low-income students?

As one student put it,

“eLearning is inclusive. It makes learning accessible for everyone without the socio-economic factors that a public school can highlight. The social factor makes it harder to focus on learning. Learning shouldn’t be about trying to fit in”.

What about bias and racism in online courses?

Editor:

- understands the language abilities for the age and grade of the course.
- looks for bias
- ensures that all Ontario students, regardless of ethnic background or geography, can see themselves in the course.



What I Know

Proper implementation of elearning is possible...

- If Ministry maintains its centralized leadership role by providing the vLE and exemplary online courses,
- If elearning programs are well resourced and funded,
- If elearning teachers and support staff are well trained,
- If elearning students have the necessary local as well as online supports,
- If bandwidth and access to technology is proportionately increased,
- If existing best practices are incorporated.

**eLearning can continue to be a
viable learning option for
Ontario students!**