



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: Niagara Children's Centre School Authority

Contact Person and Email Address: Staci Whittle - staci.whittle@niagarachildrencentre.com

Name of Program/Initiative/Strategy: Graphics for Learning

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

The strategy is straightforward; the strategy looks at the classroom environment and implementing graphics, language mats etc... and the use of graphics to facilitate reading and writing for students who low functioning in kindergarten through to secondary school.

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.?

Answers

- The program is delivered in classrooms
- The Classroom team (Teacher, EAs, ECEs, Student Support, Principal, Special Education Consultants)
- The targeted audience would be students with a focus on academic success
- We transfer what we do with our co-terminous school boards through our transition process. We have also implemented workshops in Toronto and the Niagara Region
- There should be no staffing or budget implications
- Board Maker or a similar software program
- Indicators of success is tracking the growth of each student's ability to read and write using graphic support

What has been the impact on Student Learning?

The impact has been that of observing and monitoring how each student grows over the course of the school year. An example would be that of a little girl who was reading at a PM benchmark of 1 and by the end of the school year is now reading at a PM benchmark of 14. Furthermore, if the primary years implement graphics for learning, especially in kindergarten, there will be less classroom management concerns, as well as allowing low functioning students a outlet to collaborate with typical peers.