



March 2, 2018

Re: Technology Enriched Learning Plan (TELP) Update

The integration of technology in the classroom is a priority for supporting student success and the promotion of innovative learning environments at the Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB). After careful consideration and community consultation, Senior Administration has decided to continue to the 1-to-1 Technology Enriched Learning Plan (TELP) program to provide all Grade 7 students with an iPad in the 2018-2019 school year.

Currently, the LKDSB has provided students in Grades 7-9 with iPads to support their learning. During its five years of implementation to date, the LKDSB has distributed 14,000 iPads and supported staff professional development to encourage further integration of technology in the classroom.

The TELP 1-to-1 program ensures all students in Grade 7 receive an iPad, regardless of family circumstances; it continues to build capacity throughout the system through professional development; and supports pedagogical changes through the integration of technology in teaching and learning practices. It also provides an opportunity for students to use their devices at school and at home, and to personalize their educational experience.

Over the last five years, the LKDSB's TELP program received substantial funding through the Ministry of Education's Technology Learning Fund. However, those funds were significantly reduced this year. As a result, Senior Administration was faced with a challenging decision on the future of TELP.

In order to make an informed decision regarding the TELP program, Senior Administration solicited input from parents and guardians through the Parent Involvement Committee and an online survey. Input was gathered on multiple options, including continuing the 1-to-1 model for Grades 7-9; a 2-to-1 model (one iPad available for every two students in a classroom); and a model involving parents/guardians providing a financial contribution to purchase an iPad. We had more than 800 responses to the online survey, as well as phone and email responses. Senior Administration also gathered input from teaching staff.

Overwhelmingly, parents and guardians supported the 1-to-1 model, particularly noting the importance of equitable access to technology to support students' learning.

Accordingly, Senior Administration has decided to continue to the 1-to-1 TELP program for Grade 7 students for the 2018-2019 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Costello".

Jim Costello  
Director of Education