EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE PROJECT

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a brief update about the projects undertaken and the tools developed by the Evidence-Based Practice Project (EBP) team for the benefit of the Anglophone community.

CURRENT PROJECTS: END-OF-CYCLE RESULTS

Data collection tool → Compilation tool → Data Kits → Interpretation Guide

Production of Data Kits for End-of-Cycle Results

The Evidence-based team is currently working on the production of a data kit to help with the compilation and the production of end-of-cycle evaluation results at the elementary level. The data kits are comprised of four tools to facilitate not only the collection of data but also the use of results with school teams. The four tools are:

1) The data collection tool is an Excel sheet used by teachers to enter student results. The sheet is modified from year to year to reflect the changes made in the Cycle 3 MELS Evaluation. Teachers may

choose to enter the results manually on a hard copy or directly in the electronic version.

2) The data compilation tool is an Access data base that has been created to facilitate both data entry and the production of results. This tool is meant for school board teams that are not yet using GPI as their point of entry for the results. For that reason, the tool is meant to be a temporary solution allowing for the production of results within a reasonable timeframe, in order to be used in their planning process.

3) The data kits are in fact the actual results, that is a combination of the statistics presented in visual formats (graphs and tables) as well as templates designed to carry out preliminary analysis.

4) The interpretation guide is a tool designed to support the use of data with school teams, by school principals, educational consultants and board administrators. The guide will suggest potential interpretation strategies and guiding questions based on data. .

End-of-Cycle Data Tool

The goal is to reduce time spent on technical tasks,

in order to increase time spent on analysis and interpretation of data.

Upcoming Conferences

Data Teams Summit: Develop a deeper and richer understanding of data teams. www.leadandlearn.com/conference/	June 2010 Vail, Colorado, USA
Assessment Summit: Ahead of the Curve By Solution Tree http://www.solution-tree.com/Public/ InstituteDetail.aspx? node=&parent=&ProductID=CFN138	August, 2010 Halifax, NS October 2010 Niagara, ON

Returning from Conference

Making DATA Matter in Washington, DC

Data Matter conference was a panel discussion sponsored by Education Week and was held in both Chicago and Washington in April. Some members of the Quebec Anglophone community attended the conference:

Attending the Data Matter Conference in Washington DC was a testimony of how data can improve student performance. But while the Quebec education system shifts towards the collection, analysis, and production of data, I was reminded that the teachers are the primary users of such information—as they will subsequently be the strongest contributors to student success.

— G. Hipps. SWLSB.

Upcoming Projects

- Spring-Fall 2010

  Accompaniment of the implementation of Lumix at SWLSB.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ACCOMPANIMENT

- Interactive presentation entitled *The Partnership Agreements & The Role of Pedagogical Consultants* to members of the Language Network, and to Educational services of SWLSB and EMSB.

- At LBPSB, accompaniment of the Lasalle-Verdun Literacy Project team. Support about the design, development and the evaluation of the literacy model for the school board.

- At SWLSB, presentation to school and board administrators of the End-of-cycle data kits.

COMMUNICATIONS*

- March 2010

  Presentation of the End-of-cycle compilation project to DEEN and DEEN-CARE members.

- May 2010

  Presentation at AFCAS during the Quebec English Speaking Community Research Network (QUESCREN) seminar: *Utilisation des données dans les organisations scolaires Anglophones du Québec: Présentation du projet de recherche*.

  Invited to present at *Rencontres Nationales* as an *équipe-défi*, *w*ith Joliette High School about the exchange of information to support the articulation process.

  * Presentation documents available on http://

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The process outlined in the guide is used to support decision-making.

Tools Supported by Professional Development

In addition to the design of the tools for the compilation of end-of-cycle results, the Evidence-based team is offering professional development workshops about the process of compiling, analyzing, interpreting and using the results. A series of three workshops will be offered to support the process. The first workshop is planned for **June 17th**. The focus will be on the procedures to compile results.

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Questions Corner

We have created our own data entry sheets...Can we still use the Access compilation tool?

Absolutely! Since the data collection and compilation tools are based on the structure of the end-of-cycle 3 MELS evaluation, the adjustments should be minor. It is the documentation of what the teachers did and did not do that has to be documented.

Can we use the Access compilation tool for other subjects or levels?

Eventually! Right now, the compilation tool is conceived as a pilot project using ELA Cycle 3 results. Adjustments and changes will be

carried out to improve the structure, and the features of the tool, using end-users' input and comments. The data base may be modified for other subjects and levels.

At my board, teachers are entering the results in GPI. Is it still worth using the Access tool?

Yes and no! The compilation tool is meant to facilitate both the entry of data and the output of results. Although using GPI is the best solution in terms of data entry, the production of results remains cumbersome. Statistics still have to be transformed in order to be presented in a more user-friendly way.

My board has purchased (or will be shortly) a dashboard tool. Is it still worth using the Access compilation tool?

Yes, for two reasons. Most boards are planning to use LUMIX which is the dashboard created by GRICS. Although, the main source of data is their own products (GPI, DOFIN) it will eventually be possible to tap into external sources created using mainstream software such as Excel and Access. Secondly, the implementation of Lumix to extract results will require some time to be fully implemented and in use in each organization. In light of the requirement to write a Management and Success Agreement for each school and the need for data that this obligation entails, it can be safely assumed that the Access compilation tool is a viable option for the compilation and the production of elementary June 2010 results.

We have limited human resources to produce the end-of-cycle results. How is this tool going to help?

The main idea for designing a tool in Access was a) to facilitate data entry and, b) to reduce the time required to produce the statistics. This being said, it is assumed that the data entry is done centrally, by one person.

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Workshop

Compilation of End-of-Cycle Results

Using a hands-on approach, the first of three workshops is designed for people responsible for the compilation and analysis of results in their respective school boards. Subject consultants as well as people responsible for the Partnership Agreements are more than welcome.

Proposed content:

1) Getting ready: Data cleaning procedures & documentation of the process.

2) Hands-on: Enter your data and produce the results for two schools.

3) Scenario building: Who does what at your board.

$\Rightarrow$ **When: June 17th, from 9:30 to 15:30**

$\Rightarrow$ **Location: Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board**

$\Rightarrow$ **Lunch included**

Data collection tool

Compilation tool
• Data entry
• First Calculations

Data Kits
• Production of visuals
• Analysis

Interpretation Guide

EVIDENCE-BASED PROJECT & PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

On-going participation with the SSCAAA Partnership Agreement support group. Steps entails collaboration on the review of the draft and final versions of the Partnership Agreements.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE PROJECT: ACTION PLAN

While the action plan for the Evidence-based project remains to be drafted, steps have been taken towards the achievement of both expected results.

RESULT1: The adoption of an Evidence-based model by the school boards and the schools of the Anglophone community of Québec.

The development of the End-of-cycle tool as well as the professional development workshop offered on June 17th, are the first steps taken to achieve this result.

RESULT 2: An established community of practice in the Anglophone school community to exchange expertise about the use of evidence in their respective milieu.

A scouting team of 9 people from 6 different boards will be attending the Data Team Summit in Vail, Colorado, which is organized by the Leadership and Learning Center. This is the first step in the development of a community of practice. The participants will debrief on the content of the conference and have agreed to participate in three working meetings the following year, in order to develop a shared vision about Evidence-based practice in the Anglophone community. This initiative is supported by the Evidence-based project and the respective boards. More to come in the next issue!

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- *Report on Data-Summit Team from Vail Colorado.*

- *Interesting books*

- *EBP Action Plan*

Suggestions and questions are welcome!

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