

Toronto District School Board Laptop Initiative

✓ Background

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) found computer labs were not being widely used, and in **September 2010** started introducing **mobile technology in the classroom** to allow for technology availability at the point of learning.

Laptop Initiative Distribution

Sept 2010:
3,500 laptops



December 2011:
17,730 laptops



✓ Laptop Initiative



From **2013 to 2014** the TDSB collected and reported on the Laptop Initiative. This brief reports on the **impact of the Laptop Initiative**.

✓ Study Overview*

Two surveys targeting **students, teachers and principals** who were engaged in the Laptop Initiative were administered in June 2013 and June 2014.

Overview of Participants



4,904 Students



339 Teachers



141 Administrators

The surveys were used to answer research questions on:

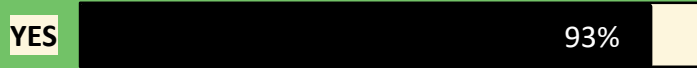


- **Use of Laptops**
- **Student Impact**
- **Teacher Practice**
- **Strength & Challenges of the Laptop Initiative**
- **Common Characteristics of Schools' laptop project**



Key Findings

Should the Laptop Initiative continue?



- An overwhelming number of respondents (93% of principals and 94% of teachers) **recommended continuation of the Laptop Initiative** at their school.



Student Impact

- The Laptop Initiative revealed many positive student impacts including: **increased engagement**, more tailored learning experiences, increased pride in work, increased **independence of students with special needs** and less disciplinary problems related to computers.



Educator Impact

- Teachers would like better **defined expectations** on how to integrate technology and **improved access to PD** on technology.



Recommendations

Recommendations for moving forward:



High-quality systematic evidence-based **professional development**



Improved communication about the Laptop Initiative, best-practices and more defined teacher expectations.



Improved reliability of **computer networks**, increased **technology support**



Systematic monitoring of student academic indicators, special education students and teaching practices



Mainstreaming goals for implementation across ALL schools



Rewarding participants in the Laptop Initiative

*For further details on “Fostering Global Competencies and Deeper Learning with Digital Technologies Research Series” please visit: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/research/Research/Publications/TechnologyandInnovationinEducation.aspx>



Continue with the Laptop Initiative