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MEMORANDUM TO: Student Success Leaders

FROM: Sue Durst
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Student Success/Learning to 18
Implementation, Training and Evaluation Branch

DATE: March 19, 2007

SUBJECT: **Credit Recovery and the Provincial E-learning Strategy**

As part of the Student Success Strategy, Credit Recovery Programs, have become an effective way to help students achieve a successful outcome by providing them with opportunities to recover credits that they have previously failed. The Provincial E-learning Strategy is a resource that supports staff in the delivery of these programs and students in their learning. We are writing this memo as it has come to our attention that some clarification is needed as to how the Ontario Educational Resource Bank (OERB) and provincial Learning Management System (LMS) support credit recovery. Both the OERB and the LMS are components of the provincial e-learning strategy and are available at no cost to participating school boards.

School boards are responsible for issuing logins and passwords and for determining which of their teachers and students will have access to the OERB and/or the LMS. Each school board has designated a staff member to be the main contact for the OERB and LMS. This person has been trained by the ministry on the use of these tools and in how to set up user accounts.

The OERB is an online storage site for digital learning resources (e.g., student activities, lesson plans, multimedia learning objects) in a variety of formats, which allows teachers in provincially funded school boards across Ontario to share their classroom resources with other teachers. All of the resources in the OERB may be used to support classroom learning, including credit recovery. Teachers and students may use the OERB even if they are not teaching/taking an online course.

All of the resources are linked to the Ontario curriculum and are searchable by grade, subject/course, strand, and/or overall expectation, as well as by key words. Because the OERB can be searched by overall expectations, it is an ideal tool to support credit recovery.


In addition to the thousands of resources from K – 12 that have been contributed by teachers, all of the twenty-nine on-line credit courses offered through the LMS, as well as other curriculum units, that have been developed by e-Learning Ontario have been uploaded to the OERB in a modified format that makes them useable in a traditional classroom environment. A teacher can search for entire units or for individual activities that make up those units and use them to support students in credit recovery programs.

School boards can also use the provincial LMS to support credit recovery through teacher-mediated, on-line learning using any of the twenty-nine on-line courses, or parts of them. Teachers using the LMS have access to collaboration tools such as chat, threaded discussion and quiz, as well as other tools to assist them in course management and student tracking.

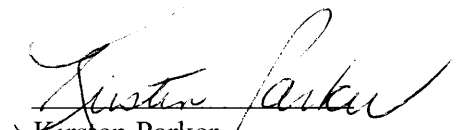
Because the LMS is a virtual environment, students in different schools could be enrolled in a credit recovery class, say in mathematics, with a mathematics teacher assigned to that class. This way they are being taught in their home school by an on-line subject specialist in a virtual environment and supported by the home school credit recovery teacher. Teachers and students may use the LMS alone, or in combination with the OERB.

French resources and course units have also been developed to support credit recovery. These resources and course units will be available through SAMFO until September 2007, after which time, it is anticipated they will be migrated to the OERB and the provincial LMS.

If you have any questions about how the provincial e-learning strategy supports credit recovery please contact us at sue.durst@ontario.ca or kirsten.parker@ontario.ca.



Sue Durst



Kirsten Parker