

Memorandum to: Directors of Boards Participating in
Homework Help Pilot Project 2010-11

From: Sue Durst
Director
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch

Date: September 8, 2010

Subject: Homework Help Pilot Project OEN Request

The purpose of this memo is to welcome your board's participation in the Homework Help pilot project in 2010-11 and to provide additional information on how the project will be implemented for this coming school year.

Thirty-two boards are now participating in the pilot project; 16 returning boards and 16 new boards. Many of the new boards are coterminus to returning boards providing for an ongoing balance of representation across the province and an opportunity for coterminous boards to take advantage of sharing experiences based on geographic area and mutual interests. The project continues with ministry funding in support of the full-time eLearning Contact (eLC) position, a board staff person dedicated to co-ordinating all aspects of the project including the registration of students to the Independent Learning Centre's (ILC) Homework Help website. Staff in e-Learning Ontario are looking forward to working with your eLCs in the months ahead.

As you know, the focus of the Homework Help pilot is to provide students, in Grades 7 – 10, with an after-hours, online support in Math. As the pilot expands, the Ministry continues to be interested in assessing the impact this form of support has on student learning. To better enable this type of analysis, a new requirement is being introduced this year: Ontario Educational Numbers (OEN) will be used to track student activity on the ILC's interactive after-school homework help site. Participating boards, through their MISA leaders, are being requested to provide to the ILC the following information:

For all students registered in Grades 7, 8, 9, and 10 in the 2010-11 school year,

- OEN*
- date of birth*
- grade*
- course*

The information from your board is to be provided to the ILC by September 17, 2010. Sample files have been provided by the ILC in the formats required (please see attached).

Throughout the year, the ILC will forward Homework Help student activity information to the ministry. Ministry staff will use this information as part of the assessment of the Homework Help pilot project.

The ILC will monitor and collect usage data such as queue/wait times; types of questions being asked; time spent within the Homework Help site (i.e. login/logout), and time spent with one-to-one tutoring. Boards should note that while additional information such as gender, grade, and achievement levels attached to the OEN may be used to further analyse usage/impact, individual students and/or boards/school will not be identified.

It should be noted that the ILC, through the constituting legislation of the Ontario Educational Communications Authority, has the authority to collect, use, or require the OEN for purposes related to providing educational services which in this case is the services of after-school Homework Help.

This OEN requirement was already discussed with MISA leaders at a teleconference held on July 20, 2010. We appreciate the involvement of your MISA leaders in the discussion and look forward to their ongoing co-operation in providing the necessary OEN and supporting information to the ILC.

Should your MISA leader have further questions regarding the technical details of the data requirement for the ILC, please have them contact either:

Sarah Irwin at: sirwin@tvo.org (416) 484-2883

Bruce Jones at: bjones@tvo.org (416) 484-2600 ext. 2287

Should you have further questions regarding the Homework Help project, please contact Peter Sovran at: peter.sovran@ontario.ca or (416) 325-0394.

We look forward to working with your board on the Homework Help pilot project.

Sue Durst

Attachments

c.c. John Crocco, Niagara Catholic DSB for information only
Board MISA Leaders of Participating Homework Help boards
Lisa Lumley, Ministry of Education
Peter Sovran, Ministry of Education
Sarah Irwin, Independent Learning Centre
Bruce Jones, Independent Learning Centre
Homework Help e-Learning Contacts