



# **Continuous School Improvement Plan**

**New Ross Consolidated School**

**School Year 2013-2014**

## **SECTION A: INTRODUCTION**

New Ross Consolidated School is a small P-9 isolated school located in New Ross, NS. One of the many challenges faced in delivering the PSP is the numerous subjects taught per teacher and that the majority of classrooms consist of a split grade situation. The scheduling constraints affect the ability of the staff to meet and share instructional strategies and to focus curriculum implementation across subject areas and grade levels. The introduction of 'Embedded Time' into the school day will allow the staff to benefit from the additional time that can be spent within Professional Learning Communities to focus on academic achievement of students. This will be achieved through the implementation of the school wide improvement goals contained within this report.

During the 2012-2013 school staff examined school based and provincial data over several years and reflected on this data with the following driving questions.

1. What are we doing well as a school?
2. What do we need to focus on to improve as a school?
3. What are you doing well in your classroom pertaining to the question or data provided?
4. What important information do you draw from this data?
5. What supports do teachers need, to provide students with academic success, when reflecting on this data?

The following data was examined:

- Tell Them From Me 2009-2012 Grade 4-6 (School and SSRSB)
- Tell Them From Me 2010-2012 Grade 7-9 (School and SSRSB)
- SELL/EXSELL 2010-2012 (School and SSRSB)
- LLI (School and SSRSB)
- Provincial Assessment results ELLA, EEMLA, ELA, EMLA, JHLA 2009-2012 (School, SSRSB, NS)
- Suspension Data (School, SSRSB)

The following areas were addressed when reflecting on data and driving questions:

1. Implementation of the PSP
2. Social and personal development of students
3. Safe and inviting learning environments
4. Family and Community Involvement
5. Effective Communication

6. Literacy
7. Mathematics
8. Student engagement
9. Strategies for student improvement

In examining our SELL/EXSELL and Provincial Assessment data over the past several years, NRCS staff identified a need to focus on strategies to increase student confidence and skill development in the area of writing. The data also identifies a need to focus particularly on the narrative writing skills of students. Staff identified a need for consistency across grade levels and subject areas when developing writing skills of students. Staff expressed an interest in examining a shared approach to examining SELL/EXSELL assessments and a shared understanding of the use of this data as student grade each year.

New Ross Consolidated School will be introducing the T.E.L.P. SSRSB initiative at the grade 5/6 classroom during the 2013-2014 school year. The intention is to implement T.E.L.P to the entire middle school during the 2014-2015 school year. The increase use of technology within the 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom and the DOE Anti-Bullying Task Force Protocols has mandated that schools become educators in the safe and ethical use of technology. This mandate and the introduction of the SSRSB T.E.L.P initiative has inspired NRCS staff to develop a CSI goal for the 2012-2013 school year that focuses on creating more digitally aware citizens. NRCS has set the initiative to help students and parents increase their understanding of becoming responsible ‘digital citizens’.

“Digital Citizenship is a concept which helps teachers, technology leaders and parents to understand what students/children/technology users should know to use technology appropriately. Digital Citizenship is more than just a teaching tool; it is a way to prepare students/technology users for a society full of technology. **Digital citizenship is the norms of appropriate, responsible technology use.**” -[www.digitalcitizenship.net](http://www.digitalcitizenship.net)

## **SECTION B: ACTION PLAN**

**Goal 1:** Over the 2013-2014 school year, there will be a 3% increase in SELL/EXSELL writing scores of students meeting or exceeding expectations.

### **Strategy :**

- Teachers will continue to employ writing workshop models in their classrooms with a focus on organization of ideas in a variety of writing genres. Exemplars and modeling will be used in the classroom.
- Teachers will continue to use exemplars, and develop a method to continuously display exemplars for students to be able to reference throughout the given assignment.
- Teachers will continue to use student friendly language when developing literacy goals for students to reference at the beginning and end of a given task or assignment.
- Teachers will continue to collaborate in PLC groups to collect, share and use data to inform instruction. Teachers will focus on creating models and exemplars as well sharing ideas that worked.
- Teachers will model organization using a variety of methods including graphic organizers, exemplars, teacher modeling, conferencing, etc.
- Verify that common editing symbols are posted in each classroom.
- Team approach with teachers in developing common assessment strategies in the collection of SELL/EXSELL data.
- Students will write daily either in language arts classes or in core subjects.

### **Action Steps :**

1. Staff will learn the following from engagement in the professional learning committees (knowledge, skills, and professional practices).
2. Teachers will continue to learn about best practices (aligned with curriculum) around the use of writing exemplars to increase student achievement. •
3. Teachers will continue to develop an understanding of writing outcomes across grade levels in an effort to better prepare students for the following school year and to develop consistency amongst teaching practices in writing development throughout the grade levels at the school.
4. Teachers will continue to develop common assessment strategies when examining student writing across the grade and

subjects taught.

5. Support in PLC's by SSRSB staff in the areas of SELL/EXSELL, TieNet, Differentiation, and the use of exemplars, anchors, rubrics with a goal to increase student confidence and success in writing.

## **Timeline :**

Data sources used to monitor progress over the 2013-2014 school year.

- Pre and Post writing assessments correlated with the SELL/EXSELL student assessments. Collected at several points throughout the year to be shared during PLC opportunities provided through the addition of embedded time for staff development.
- Provincial Assessment Data at grade 3, 6 and 8. Develop a system for tracking provincial data on individual student progress for teacher use within the classroom and as students grade the following school year.
- School Based Assessments. Teachers provide one sample per student at the conclusion of each term to be examined with the PLC group.
- SELL/EXSELL data collected throughout the school year.

## **Resources :**

- The use of Technology as a tool to help student develop writing skills. Applications available include: dictionary/thesaurus, note taking, brainstorming , outlining, writing skill development, file storage and organization.
- Assessment for learning. Understanding of tools used daily within the classroom to allow frequent checks in understanding. PD provided by SSRSB.
- Developing Student Friendly Outcomes. Consult Student Services leaders within the board for PD opportunities.
- Creations and development of writing exemplars to be used in the classroom and the creation of exemplar displays for students. <http://nswritingexemplars.ednet.ns.ca/overview.htm> and <http://find.gov.on.ca/?searchType=simple&owner=edu&url=&collection=educationtcu&offset=0&lang=en&type=ANY&q=exemplars>
- Use of anchors to increase student engagement in writing tasks: Appointment clocks, stations, cubing, KWL Charts, Literacy Circles, reflections, sticky notes. PLC group sharing of instructional strategies.

**Goal 2:** To increase student awareness in 'Digital Citizenship' and the appropriate use of technology inside and outside of the educational environment.

**Strategy :**

- Introduction of an Inquiry Based Learning Bootcamp during the first 2 weeks of school that addresses the safe and responsible use of technology within the IBL modules.
- Introduction to afterschool educational opportunities for parents and guardians on the developing responsible digital citizens and safeguards around technology within the home.
- Student to Student across grade level presentations and educational opportunities to either reinforce or educate learning around the safe use of technology.
- Student-driven school based standards that students will be obligated to adhere to around the use of technology during the school day.

**Action Steps :**

1. Pre and Post survey of students to gather an understanding of student current understanding of digital citizenship and proper ethical use of technology.
2. Staff will use PLC opportunities to develop a plan for cross-curricular and grade level education on digital citizenship.
3. Staff will continue to foster their own comfort around the use of tablets and technology into daily classroom practice by participating in educational opportunities at their proficiency level. PD opportunities will be provided at the school.

**Timeline:**

This will be an ongoing initiative at NRCS, with a development stage occurring during the 2013-2014 school year. If program development is successful and student understanding is increased around their obligations of using technology in an ethical manner, than a positive impact should occur school wide. Tell Them From Me Survey questions will be added that address this initiative in an effort to correlate data with project success.

## Resources:

- DOE NS Report on Bullying and Cyberbullying.  
[http://www.ednet.ns.ca/files/reports/Cyberbullying\\_Task\\_Force\\_Report.pdf](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/files/reports/Cyberbullying_Task_Force_Report.pdf)
- Alberta Schools Digital Citizenship Guide  
<http://education.alberta.ca/media/6735100/digital%20citizenship%20policy%20development%20guide.pdf>
- Annapolis Value School Board Digital Citizenship Guide  
[http://www.avrsb.ca/sites/default/files/meetings/files/digital\\_citizenship\\_sept\\_5\\_2012.pdf](http://www.avrsb.ca/sites/default/files/meetings/files/digital_citizenship_sept_5_2012.pdf)
- NS Cyber Safety Act <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/cyber-safety.shtml>
- NS Digital Library Resource [http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media\\_library/express/Digital-Citizenship.shtml](http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media_library/express/Digital-Citizenship.shtml)
- RCMP
- SSRSB Technology Staff for PD Opportunities