



Connecting Ontario School Boards

A win-win proposition

Technology and next-generation network tools and resources are transforming the way teachers teach and students learn. Virtual communities and resources are connecting students, teachers and schools to each other and to partners across Canada and around the world, creating dynamic and exciting interactive learning and teaching environments.

That's why school boards throughout Ontario are making the decision to connect to ORION, the Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network. ORION brings low-cost, unconstrained bandwidth and the critical infrastructure to support new, interactive learning and teaching tools and resources.

Quick facts about ORION

- not-for-profit network created to support and enhance research and education in Ontario
- transmission speed is 100 to 1000 times faster than commercially-available Internet
- spans 5,800 km, connecting partner institutions across Ontario
- 22 connection points in all regions of Ontario
- high-capacity ORION Optical Exchange in Toronto

Ultra broadband platform for school boards

Many Ontario school boards are now connected to ORION and more are coming on board. They recognize the value of taking full advantage of the opportunities ORION enables:

- Connecting students in different geographic locations through high-speed videoconferencing
- Bringing experts to classrooms from universities, colleges, research facilities, science centres, museums, including the Royal Ontario Museum, Canadian Space Agency, Royal Conservatory of Music and more
- Lightning fast access to learning resources including documentaries, multi-media library resources and films/videos in Ontario, across Canada and around the world
- Professional development opportunities, presentations, discussions, lectures and training sessions for instructors and administrators
- Access to new and exciting initiatives such as Virtual Researchers on Call (VROC), Small World Big Picture, and Advanced Broadband Enabled Learning (ABEL)



Snapshot: ORION in the classroom

A Grade 12 Kinesiology class at Dryden High School took part in a recent live open heart surgery, conducted at Mount Carmel West Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Connected through a videoconference link over the ORION network, the students were able to watch and ask questions of the surgeons performing the three-hour surgery. "I would definitely recommend this opportunity to other teachers," said Jennifer Koski, Phys. Ed. and Kinesiology teacher, whose class participated in the event.

ORION Research and Discovery News



Initiative of the Advanced Broadband Enabled Learning (ABEL) program

Contact us

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Photos courtesy of ABEL and the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Value proposition for school boards

- Increased access to educational opportunities and resources for teachers and students across Ontario, Canada and around the world
- Enhanced collaboration and resource sharing among teachers and staff within and with other boards across Ontario
- New professional development opportunities for all staff
- Greater, unconstrained bandwidth, at lower cost
- Significant savings and access to competitive Internet service



Music Path Program at the Royal Conservatory of Music

Testimonials

"Our staff and students have resources available that normally would not be attainable in Northwestern Ontario. ORION allows our teachers to take Professional Development courses from various Ontario universities and our students have participated in a live open heart surgery, a knee transplant, and discovered what DNA is. Through ORION, we have a student who is taking violin lessons with the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. ORION gives our Board the Information Technology backbone for a communications platform that spans the globe. I highly recommend ORION."

*Janet Wilkinson, Director of Education,
Keewatin-Patricia District School Board*

"Thanks to ORION and the connectivity to worldwide high speed education and research networks that it provides, our students have access to expert speakers and presenters, can participate in international learning events and can access learning resources around the world. At the same time, our staff benefit through greater collaboration and professional development opportunities within our Board and with colleagues across the province. For our Board, ORION is a win-win partnership!"

*Bill Hogarth, Director of Education,
York Region District School Board*

"Our board not only saves money on our Internet costs, we now have four times the amount of bandwidth we used to have, and our schools now have access to the global community of research and education networks."

*Steve Lloyd, Manager, IT Services,
Algonquin and Lakeshore
Catholic District School Board*

Explore the possibilities

With connection points in 21 communities throughout Ontario, we also have the ability to connect to boards and schools in several additional communities. We may also be able to recommend innovative ways to connect boards with the assistance of local and regional partners and commercial providers.

If you and your team believe your board can benefit by connecting to ORION, contact us for a consultation.

Learn more at www.orion.on.ca