

2023-24 Professional Activity Days – Summary of planned activities

Friday, April 26, 2024

Secondary

Length:	Full day
Topic:	Skilled trades and apprenticeships, student mental health and well-being, school action and equity planning
Host:	Simcoe County District School Board
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s):	Combination of administrator-facilitated and self-directed learning modules planned by central staff

Educators will learn about each of the SCDSB programs offered to students which may lead to a career in the skilled trades, including OYAP, Cooperative Education, SHSM, SWAC, and Dual Credit. Educators will also engage in case studies on the topic of skilled trade pathways and then discuss in whole group sessions. School administrators will facilitate this centrally planned learning experience.

Educators will engage in professional learning with a focus on mental health promotion and literacy planning for students. They will learn about Wayfinder, a sequenced guide that offers a variety of mental health lessons and activities organized by grade. Learning will also focus on the use of supportive transitions and how they can help ready students for learning and build mental health coping skills to use in challenging situations. All educators will also learn about strategies to support students who are dysregulated in the regular classroom.

Educators will work with school and curriculum leaders in their schools to reflect on progress towards their school's School Action and Equity Plan (SAEP) goals and next steps. These goals connect to Safe and Inclusive Learning Spaces, Achievement in Mathematics, and Graduation and Transitions.

Monday, April 8, 2024

Elementary

Length:	Full day
Topic:	Curriculum content, student mental health and well-being, skilled trades and apprenticeships
Host:	Simcoe County District School Board
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s):	Combination of administrator-facilitated and self-directed learning modules planned by central staff

All educators will engage in professional learning with a focus on mental health promotion and literacy planning for students. Educators will learn about Wayfinder, a sequenced guide that offers a variety of mental health lessons and activities organized by grade. Included are core mental health literacy lessons, lessons linked to HPE curriculum, learning activities, and tools to support and consolidate student learning. Professional learning for grades 7 and 8 teachers will include a specific focus on the implementation of the mandatory grade 7 and 8 mental

health literacy modules. All educators will also learn about strategies to support students who are dysregulated in the regular classroom.

Kindergarten educators will work collaboratively to use the data from the early reading screener to determine and plan next steps for small group reading instruction. They will also explore the new Kindergarten Math Course of Study instruction and assessment resources and create plans for an upcoming topic of study that is responsive to the needs and interests of their students.

Grade 1 to 3 educators will learn about the revised Social Studies curriculum related to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Peoples. They will review the Indigenous Education Department online resources, learn about the Human Library available for all SCDSB teachers, and plan a cross-curricular literacy lesson which embeds the new social studies content. They will also engage in self-directed learning about math content knowledge for teaching planned by the district math team. This learning will focus on strategies for teaching number and algebra.

Grade 4 to 6 educators will analyze and use their classroom reading data to determine and plan next steps for literacy instruction. They will also engage in self-directed math content knowledge for teaching learning planned by the district math team. This learning will focus on strategies for teaching number and algebra.

Grade 7 and 8 educators will learn about each of the SCDSB programs offered to students which may lead to a career in the skilled trades including: OYAP, Co-operative Education, SHSM, SWAC, and Dual Credit. Educators will also engage in case studies on the topic of skilled trades pathways and then discuss in whole group sessions. School administrators will facilitate this centrally planned learning experience. They will also engage in self-directed learning about math content knowledge for teaching planned by the district math team. This learning will focus on strategies for teaching number and algebra.

Friday, Feb. 2, 2024

Secondary

Length: Full day
Topic: Evaluation and reporting
Host: Simcoe County District School Board
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): Not applicable

Educators will be working to complete the first provincial report card which will reflect students' achievement of curriculum expectations introduced and developed in semester one from September to January/February of the school year, as well as students' development of the learning skills and work habits during that period. This process includes both evaluation and reporting.

Secondary report cards will go home to parents/guardians on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024.

Friday, Jan. 26, 2024

Elementary

Length: Full day
Topic: Evaluation and reporting
Host: Simcoe County District School Board
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): Not applicable

Educators will be working to complete the first provincial report card which will reflect students' achievement of curriculum expectations introduced and developed from September to January/February of the school year, as well as students' development of the learning skills and work habits during that period. This process includes both evaluation and reporting.

Elementary report cards will go home to parents/guardians on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024.

Friday, Nov. 17, 2023

Elementary

Length: Full day parent/guardian-student-teacher conferences
Topic: Communication to parents/guardians about student progress through parent/guardian-student-teacher conferences
Host: Simcoe County District School Board elementary schools, including Grades 7 and 8 in Grade 7-12 secondary schools
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): Elementary educators

Elementary educators will meet with students and parents/guardians to discuss student progress thus far this school year, including areas of strengths and next steps for improvement.

Secondary

Length: Full day
Topic: Multilingual learners; assessment, evaluation and reporting; school action and equity planning
Host: Simcoe County District School Board
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): School board staff, school administrators, and school leads

Educators will learn about using STEP assessment data to plan responsive instruction for their multilingual learners (ML), including the use of tools and resources to support learning. They will participate in collaborative discussions and tasks in small and large groups facilitated by

school leaders and ML lead teachers. This learning was collaboratively planned by members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Multilingual Learner team and the school-based ML leads to be responsive to the needs of the MLs in each school (100 minutes).

Educators will collaborate with department colleagues to develop culminating course tasks and consolidation activities which provide students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning. They will be supported with planning resources developed by the Student Achievement 7-12 department (100 minutes).

Educators will work with school and curriculum leaders in their schools to identify evidence-based strategies and actions to support students through the achievement of their school's School Action and Equity Plan goals. These goals connect to safe and inclusive learning spaces, achievement in mathematics, and graduation and transitions (100 minutes).

Friday, Oct. 20, 2023

Length: Full day
Topic: Health and Safety, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Mathematics
Host: Simcoe County District School Board
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): School board staff and school administrators and school leads

Educators will participate in a half-day Health and Safety digital learning session focused on health and safety incident reporting and investigations with a particular emphasis on the essential aspect of workplace violence prevention. The session will equip staff with the knowledge and tools to report incidents effectively and promptly, provide insights into the investigative and risk mitigation process, fostering transparency and accountability, and highlight the critical role staff play in preventing workplace injuries.

Educators will learn about Somali, Latino, South Asian, and African Black Indigenous heritage. They will collaboratively plan within grades and divisions. Through this, they will celebrate identities and create environments that foster well-being and sense of belonging.

Educators will choose learning related to the Knowledgehook digital math tool based on their readiness. Different learning pathways have been planned for new users, those with some experience, and those who are ready to extend their use of the math tool. All participants will learn about how to invite parents/guardians to view their child's progress. Additionally, educators will engage in High Impact Instructional Practices in Mathematics learning modules that align with their school's Achievement in Mathematics goal.

Friday, Sept. 22, 2023

Length: Full day
Topic: Reading and Literacy, Social Studies, Assessment
Host: Simcoe County District School Board
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): School board staff and school administrators

Educators will participate in person to review the newly revised Language Curriculum, *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language, 2023*, and new de-streamed *English, Grade 9, and Français, 9e année* courses and explore resources to support their implementation with students. Through group discussions and hands-on activities, elementary educators will learn about early reading instruction and the use of screening tools to help ensure that students with reading difficulties are identified and supported early. They will also explore and plan for literacy instruction across the curriculum, including the new Holocaust Education curriculum in Grade 6. Secondary educators will also engage in assessment activities and the collaborative planning of student tasks and opportunities to inform both course instruction and evaluation.