

# CONNECTING THE DOTS BETWEEN DIGITAL LITERACY AND LINC LITERACY CLASSES

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Pathways to Prosperity Conference  
November 26th , 2024



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

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et Citoyenneté Canada

# Treaty 6 Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that I am on the traditional land of Treaty 6 and home of Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4. I would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestor's footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as the Nêhiyaw, Dené, Anishinaabe/Saulteaux, Nakota Isga/Nakota Sioux, and Niitsitapi peoples.

I also acknowledge the Inuit, for whom Edmonton is the largest community south of the 60th parallel. This place has welcomed many peoples from around the world to make their home here and I am grateful to share this land.



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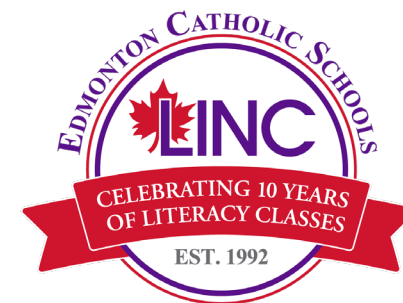
# Goals For This Session

Share ECSD LINC's experience with different digital literacy delivery modalities.

1. Provide an overview of ECSD LINC programming regarding the use of digital literacy among mainstream and literacy classes.
2. Explore the rationale behind offering specific digital literacy modalities with literacy classes, and examine the logistics involved at ECSD LINC.
3. Advocate for the selection and customization of literacy-friendly digital literacy modalities in LINC literacy classes.



# Programming Overview



# ECSD LINC

- 94 staff who serve 1600 students per year
- CLB 1 - 4 & FdL - 4L, full time
- CLB 1 - 5 & FdL - 4L (citizenship), part time evening
- Literacy only classes since 2014
- 83% daytime literacy classes & 50% evening literacy classes



St. Basil



Clareview Rec. Centre



St. Francis Women's Only

# Delivery Modalities – All Programs

## Literacy Classes

### In Person

- Fd L, 1L

### Blended

- 2L: half day
- 3L, 4L: one day

## Mainstream Classes

### In Person

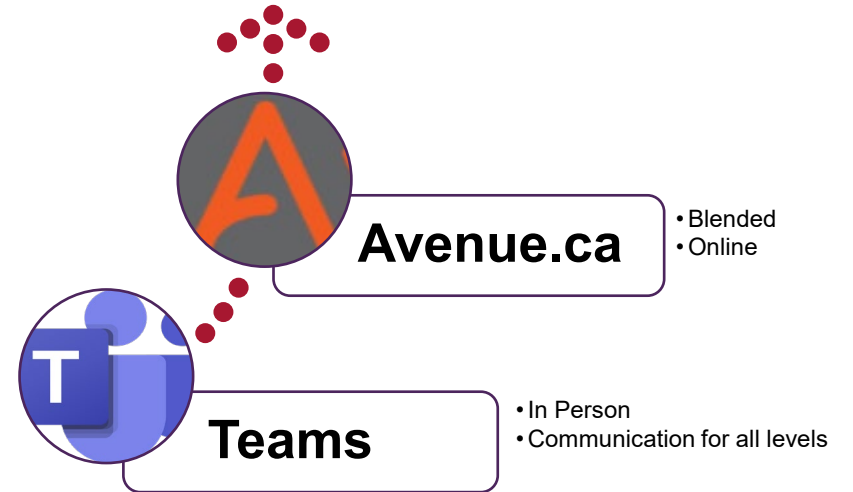
- CLB 1

### Blended

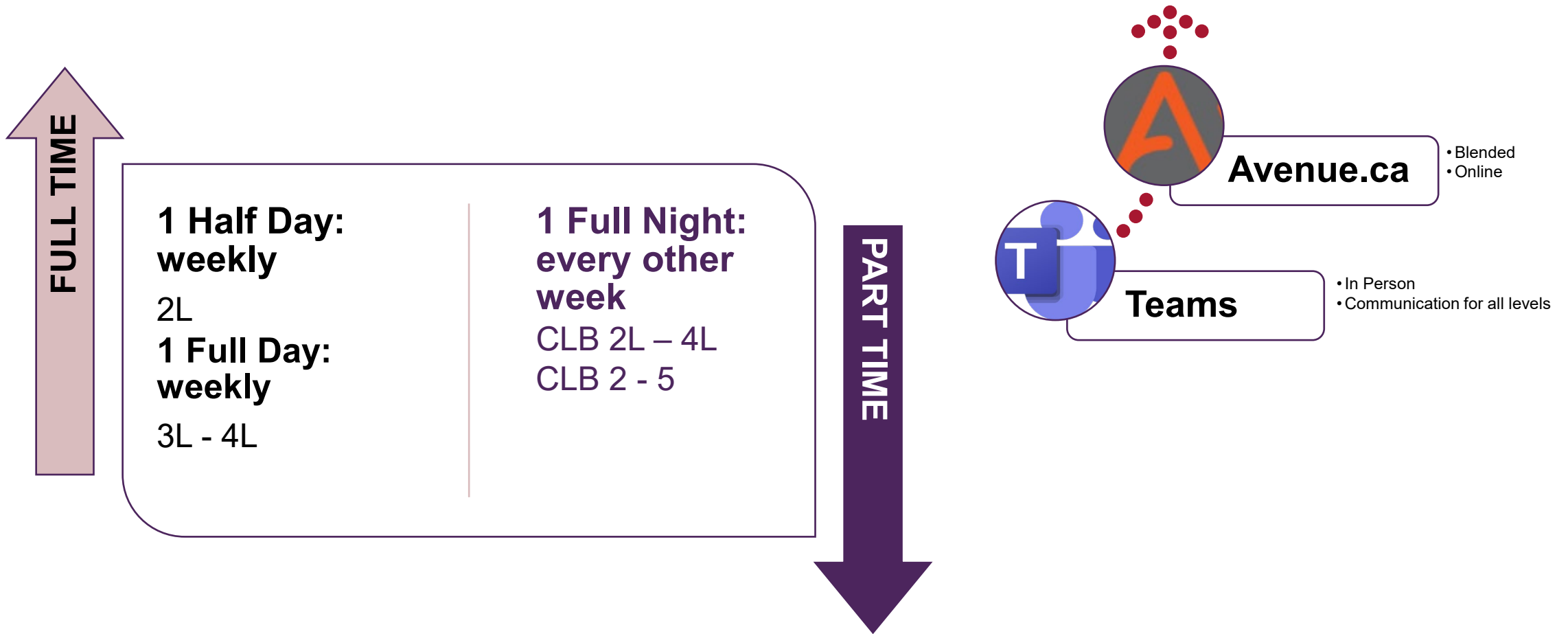
- CLB 1/2: half and full
- CLB 2, 3, 4: one day

### Online

- CLB 4



# Delivery Modalities – FT vs PT Blended



# Delivery Modalities – Rationale

## Instructor Survey

- September 2021 – March 2022
- 29 responses (some double shifts)

2. From your observations, please rate the following degree of difficulty students in your class face(d) due to:

[More details](#)

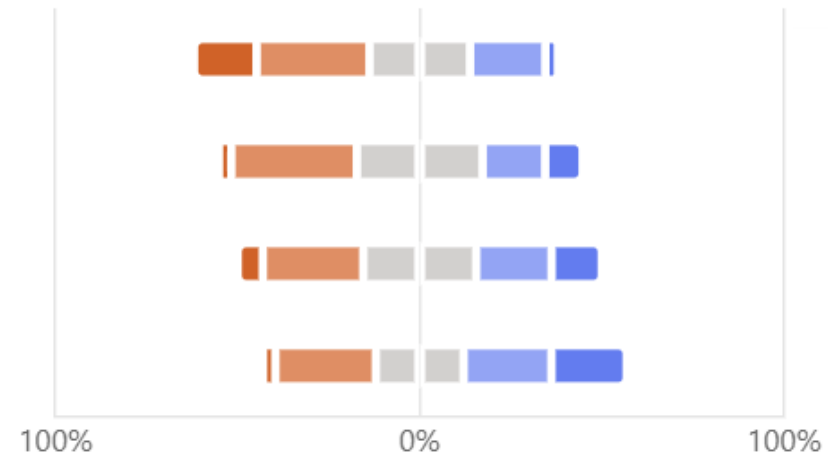
● 1 (none) ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 ● 5 (great difficulty)

Having adequate internet service to manage remote online learning

The students' technical skills/limited digital literacy to manage remote online learning

The students' limited language development to learn to manage remote online learning

The students attaining a quiet place to learn to manage remote online learning



Microsoft Forms

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# Delivery Modalities – Rationale Cont.

## Instructor Survey (noted barriers)

1. Adequate internet service → 50%
2. Technical skills and Digital literacy → 60%
3. Language development → 40%
  - **1L and 2L/3L classes** reported the highest difficulties with language development.
  - **CLB 1/2** and **CLB 3 Online** also reported significant difficulties.
  - **Fd L** classes had mixed responses, with some reporting moderate to high difficulties.
4. Quiet learning environment → 55%
  - **Access to devices:** most students have cellphones



Microsoft Forms

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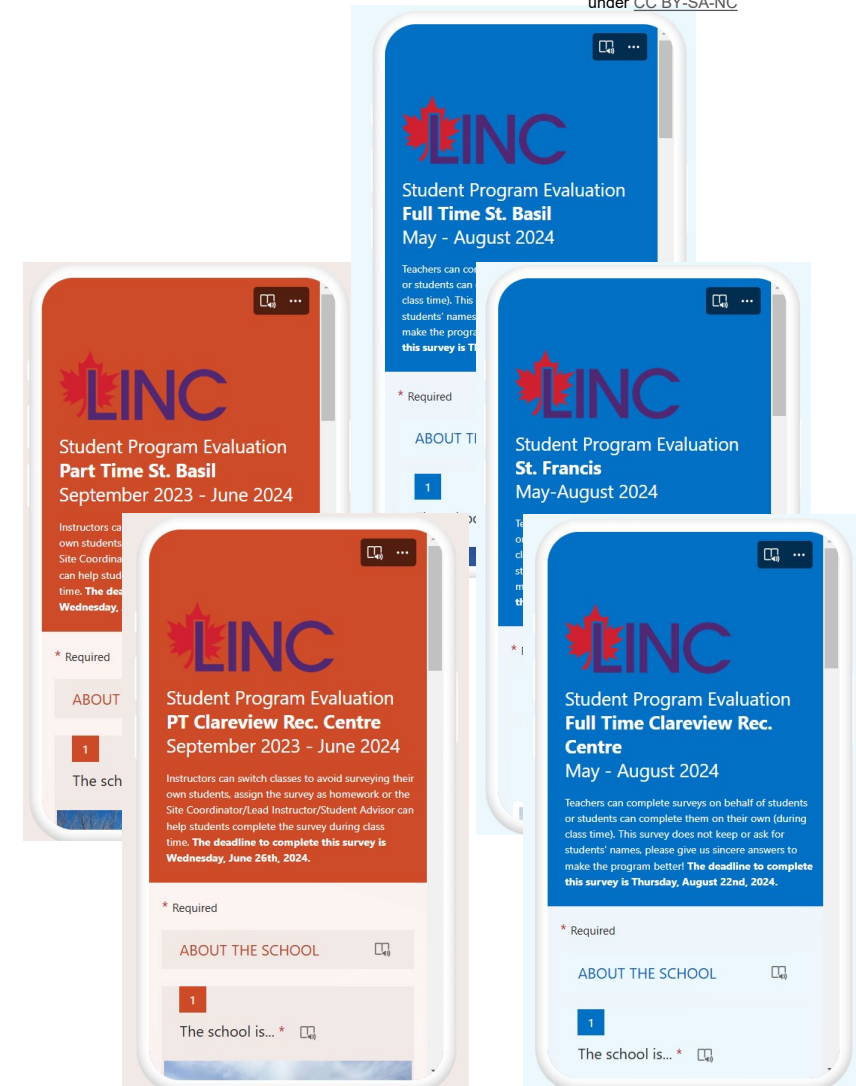
# Delivery Modalities – Rationale Cont.



Microsoft Forms  
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## Student Surveys

- Since March 2021: every 4 months (full time) and 10 months (part time)
- All levels; 18 questions approx.
  - About In Person Classes / Blended Classes: 2L separate from 3L-4L & CLB 2-5 / Online Classes
- Results from May – Aug. 2024 & Sep. 2023 – Jun. 2024



# Delivery Modalities – FT Classes



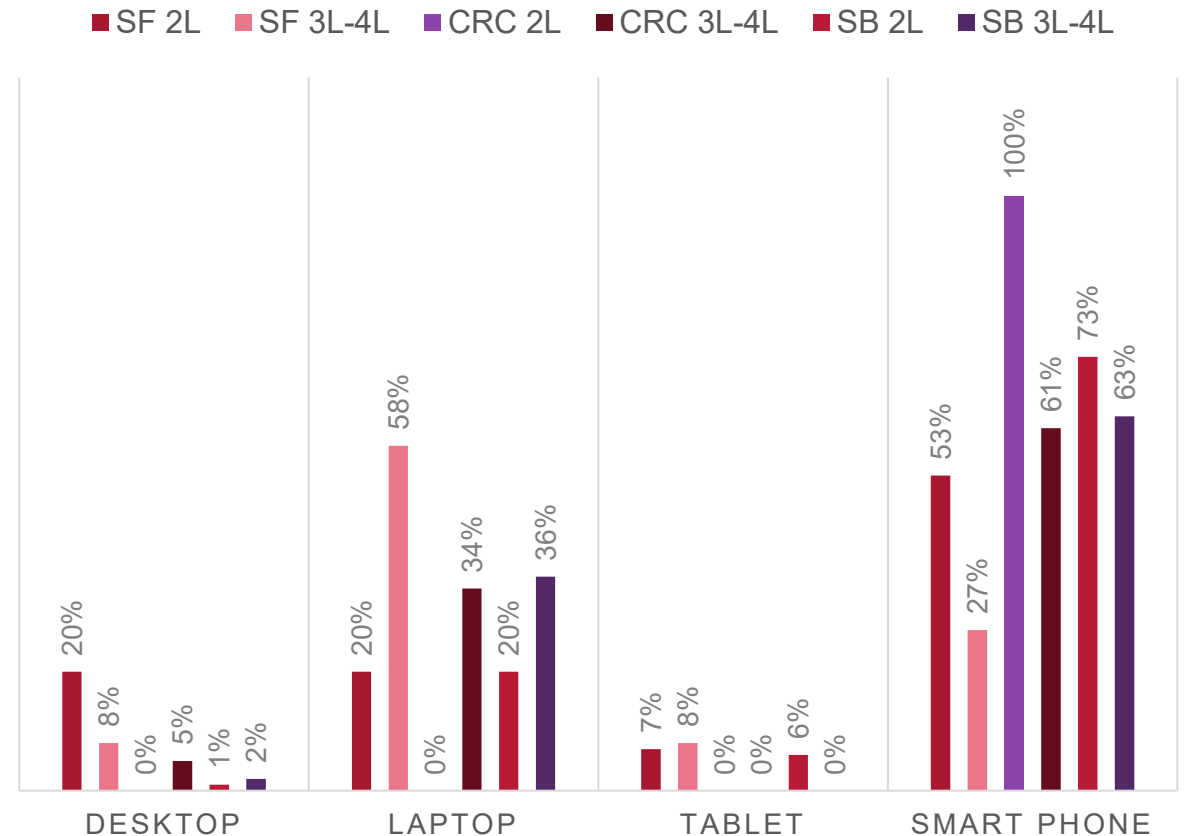
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## Student Surveys

- Every 4 mths. (FT) and 10 mths. (PT)
- All levels; 18 questions approx.
- Smart Phones 62.8%
- Laptops 28%
- Daytime students use mainly smartphones

May – Aug. 2024



# Delivery Modalities – FT Classes Cont.

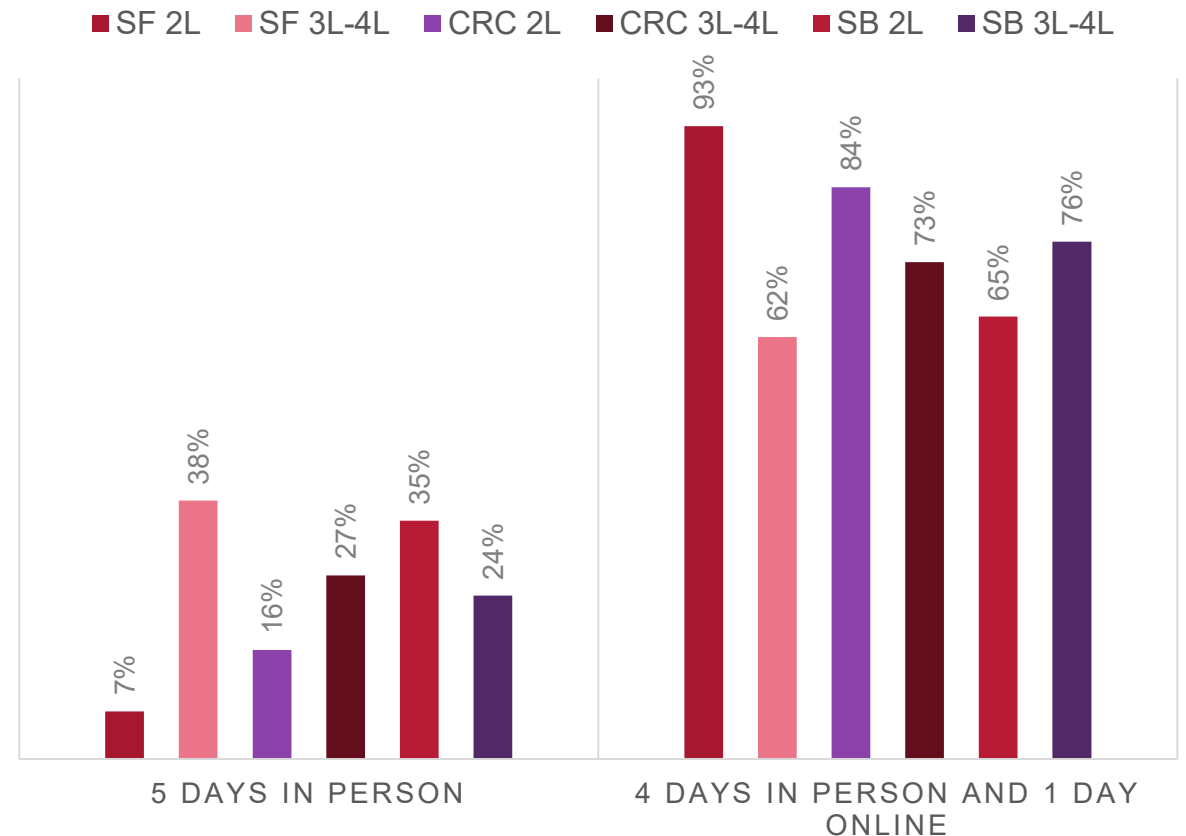
## Student Surveys

- 5 days in person 24.5%
- 4 days in person and 1 online 75.5%
- Daytime students favour 1 day of online instruction per week



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May – Aug. 2024



# Delivery Modalities – PT Classes

2021-2022 & 2022-2023 → Every Week



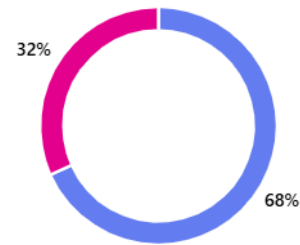
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## Mainstream Classes

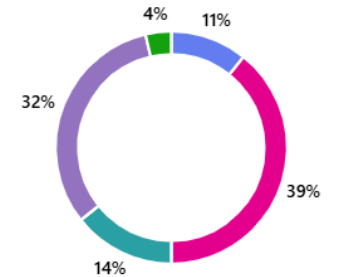
18. Which class do you like **more**?

- All evening classes in person 43
- One evening online from home each week 20



20. I like **one evening class a week online from home** because ...

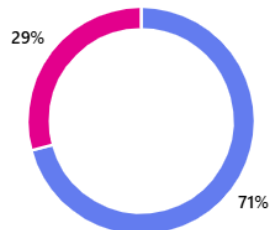
- I don't have to travel to school that evening. 3
- I can be home with my family while learning. 11
- I don't have someone to watch over my children when learning online. 4
- I really like learning online. 9
- Other 1



## Literacy Classes

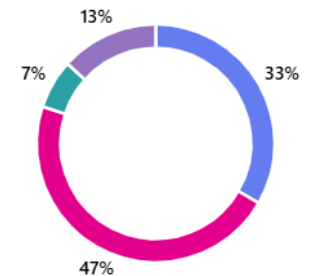
16. Which class do you like **more**?

- All evening classes in person 17
- One evening online from home each week 7



18. I like **one evening class a week online from home** because ...

- I don't have to travel to school that evening. 5
- I can be home with my family while learning. 7
- I don't have someone to watch over my children when learning online. 1
- I really like learning online. 2
- Other 0



# Delivery Modalities – PT Classes Cont.

2023-2024 → Every Other Week



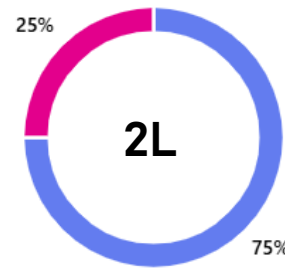
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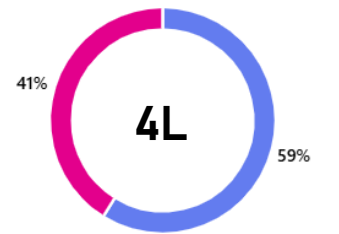
19. Which class do you like **more**?

- One evening online from home every TWO weeks 6
- One evening online from home every week 2



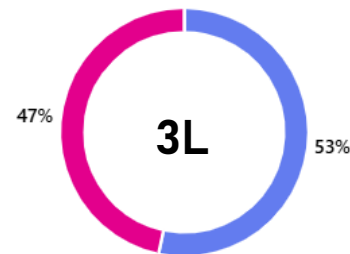
30. Which class do you like **more**?

- One evening online from home every two weeks 10
- One evening online from home every week 7



31. Which class do you like **more**?

- One evening online from home every TWO weeks 8
- One evening online from home every week 7



# Delivery Modalities – PT Classes Cont.

2023-2024 → Every Other Week

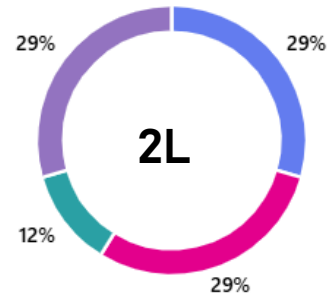


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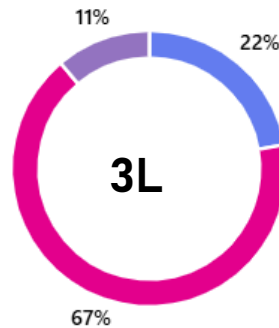
33. I have these problems **studying online...**

- computer/cellphone 5
- slow internet/WiFi 5
- no quiet place to study 2
- Other 5



21. I have these problems **studying online....**

- computer/cellphone 2
- slow internet/WiFi 6
- no quiet place to study 0
- Other 1



4L	
Computer/cellphone (3)	30%
Slow Internet/WiFi (5)	50%
No Quiet Place to Study (3)	30%
Other (1)	10%

# Delivery Modalities – PT Classes Cont.

2023-2024 → Every Other Week

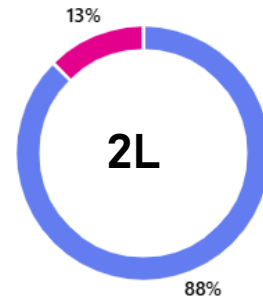


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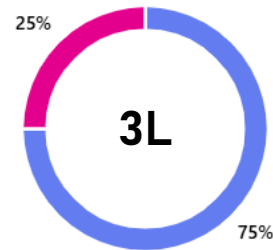
16. Which class do you like **more**?

- All evening classes in person 7
- One evening online from home every two weeks 1



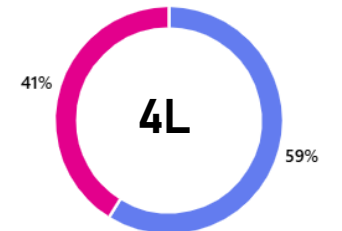
19. Which class do you like **more**?

- One evening online from home every TWO weeks 6
- One evening online from home every week 2



30. Which class do you like **more**?

- One evening online from home every two weeks 10
- One evening online from home every week 7





# Digital Literacy Progression List



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# Digital Literacy Progression List

- Created in August 2020
- Based on CLB: ESL for ALL pp.
- For **planning** and **teaching**. Mastery not required for progression.
- Skill progression ► the darker the colour shade, the more focus needed.
- Four categories:
  1. Developing Familiarity
  2. Understanding Info.
  3. Creating with
  4. Digital Citizenship

DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRESSION LIST v6 - Working Document  
Referred to CLB: ESL for ALL p. 24-28

**DEVELOPING FAMILIARITY WITH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY**  
Operating Digital Technologies

Computer (laptop or Chromebook)

- naming the basic parts of a computer and accessories:
  - mouse, touchpad/touchpad, computer, headphones, and keyboard.
  - home button, screen, icons, cursor, printer, USB port, power button, memory stick, camera, send, screen share, etc.

Fd L	CLASS LEVELS					
	CLB 1/1L	CLB 2/2L	CLB 3/3L	CLB 4/4L	CLB 5	CLB 6
Exposed to	►	►	►	►	►	►
Exposed to	►	►	►	►	►	►

Created August 2021 & Revised August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRESSION LIST v6 - Working Document  
Referred to CLB: ESL for ALL p. 24-28

**UNDERSTANDING INFORMATION WITH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**  
Accessing Information (Computer and Other Digital Technologies)

- understanding what a website looks like and accessing an instructor-selected website following guided, step-by-step instruction.
- identifying and selecting hyperlinks (Teams, Loom, YouTube, etc.) with step-by-step assistance.
- accessing Speech to Text (translation) and Text to Speech (read aloud) features when available.
- accessing the internet using a browser icon (Chrome, Edge, etc.) or the start menu following a teacher demonstration.
- identifying and using browser (Chrome, Edge, etc.) toolbar buttons following guided, step-by-step instructions (home, back, forward, minimize and maximize, close, etc.).
- identifying the address bar and accessing websites by entering a level appropriate URL following a teacher demonstration.
- participating in a simple, instructor-led keyword search to find information (a search for images of familiar theme words, etc.).
- identifying and selecting hyperlinks (surveys and QR codes, etc.) with step-by-step assistance.

Fd L	CLASS LEVELS					
	CLB 1/1L	CLB 2/2L	CLB 3/3L	CLB 4/4L	CLB 5	CLB 6
Exposed to	►	►	►	►	►	►
Exposed to	►	►	►	►	►	►

Created August 2021 & Revised August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRESSION LIST v6 - Working Document  
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**CREATING WITH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**  
Presenting Ideas (Computer and Other Digital Technologies)

- identifying level appropriate programs or applications (WhatsApp vs Teams icon) being used in the classroom, with assistance.
- identifying the basic functionality of level appropriate programs or applications (mic for audio) following a teacher demonstration.
- using basic features in level appropriate programs or applications to present ideas, with assistance.

Audio, Video and Text

- using basic presentation software (PowerPoint, etc.)
- operating a document camera
- navigating opening and saving files
- using basic features in level appropriate programs or applications to present ideas, with assistance.

Podlet, Wiki, etc.

- identifying level appropriate programs or applications (WhatsApp vs Teams icon) being used in the classroom, with assistance.
- identifying the basic functionality of level appropriate programs or applications (mic for audio) following a teacher demonstration.
- using basic features in level appropriate programs or applications to present ideas, with assistance.

Fd L	CLASS LEVELS					
	CLB 1/1L	CLB 2/2L	CLB 3/3L	CLB 4/4L	CLB 5	CLB 6
Exposed to	►	►	►	►	►	►
Exposed to	►	►	►	►	►	►

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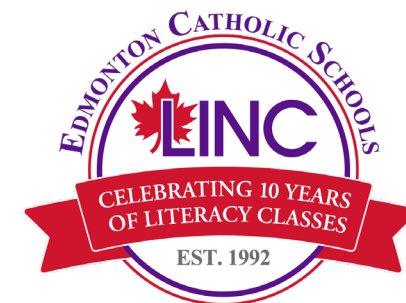
**DEMONSTRATING AND UNDERSTANDING DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP**  
(Computer and Other Digital Technologies)

- demonstrating an understanding of usernames and passwords.
- understanding that certain information is private and not shared (passwords).
- understanding that not everything found online is true.
- avoiding giving out their own personal information and other's personal information without consent.
- creating a strong password.
- keeping passwords protected and private.
- using basic emojis when appropriate.
- understanding of acceptable and non-acceptable behavioural differences between online and F2F classroom environments (quiet place, interruptions, etc.).
- selecting usernames and avatars that are appropriate.
- understanding how to determine the credibility of information on the internet.
- understanding how to protect their digital identity and footprint.
- understanding how to determine the credibility of information on the internet.
- understanding how to recognize secure websites.
- selecting the privacy settings on digital technology tools to control access to updates, posts, or profile.
- identifying and deleting junk mail, including spam.
- dating online between reliable and unreliable online contacts.
- using caution when opening an email from an unknown contact (phishing).
- demonstrating an understanding of copyright by citing others when referencing or including their work.

Fd L	CLASS LEVELS					
	CLB 1/1L	CLB 2/2L	CLB 3/3L	CLB 4/4L	CLB 5	CLB 6
Exposed to	►	►	►	►	►	►
Exposed to	►	►	►	►	►	►

Created August 2021 & Revised August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# Conclusion



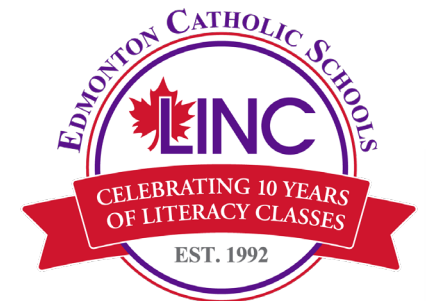
# Conclusion

- ✓ The integration of digital literacy in LINC literacy classes is achievable and most effective when delivery modalities are tailored to address the unique circumstances of literacy learners.
- ✓ Mainstream classes can utilize digital tools and platforms with minimal guidance, while literacy classes require simpler, more intuitive tools and additional support to effectively build digital literacy skills.
- ✓ The scheduling of online classes for literacy learners should prioritize a blended approach, offering consistent in-person support while incorporating online elements in a manageable and flexible manner, with some literacy levels requiring face to face instruction only.

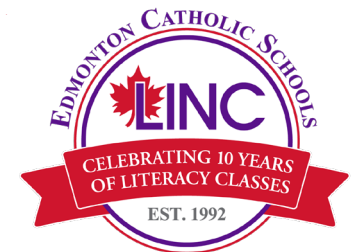


# References

- Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks. (2016). CLB: ESL for Adult Literacy Learners (ALL). Ottawa, Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks.
- ECSD LINC. (2018). LINC Literacy @ ECSD. <https://ecsdlinc.wixsite.com/lincliteracyatecsd>.
- Literacy Instructors, PBLA Leads and Coordinators at ECSD LINC.



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