

SMART Board interactive whiteboards improve pedagogy and student engagement

A recent research project by the University of New Brunswick indicates that elementary teachers and students benefit from using SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards in the classroom.

The Health and Education Research Group at the university collaborated with the New Brunswick Department of Education and Park Street School to research how a school-wide integration of SMART Board interactive whiteboards impacted teacher practices and student engagement. A progress report entitled *SMART Board Technology Integration in the Inclusive Classroom – Phase II Progress Report* summarizes Phase II of their research, which took place between October 2007 and February 2008. Full research results will be available in July 2008.

Impact on teachers

The results of a teacher-administered questionnaire showed that SMART Board interactive whiteboards enhanced the overall teaching experience.

- Every teacher at Park Street School indicated that having access to SMART Board interactive whiteboards has increased their understanding of technology as an instruction tool, with 64.7% expressing significant impact
- 82.4% of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that they are comfortable using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard as an education tool
- Teachers unanimously agreed there are benefits to using a SMART Board interactive whiteboard in the classroom, with 88.2% of teachers strongly agreeing
- 76.5% of teachers believe that students are more engaged in learning when technology is integrated into instructional activities
- Every teacher felt that their teaching abilities were enhanced using technology, with 70.6% strongly agreeing
- All teachers felt that SMART Board interactive whiteboards should be part of an overall framework for better practices in inclusive education, with 70.6% strongly agreeing

Impact on students

Pattern analysis of interactive whiteboard usage and lesson delivery showed that students were more focused on their learning when teachers used a SMART Board interactive whiteboard.

- Students became highly engaged when there were opportunities to work directly on a SMART Board interactive whiteboard
- The use of SMART Board interactive whiteboards limited opportunities for distraction by focusing students' attention on lessons
- Visual and tactile lessons led to multisensory engagement in the learning process
- SMART Board interactive whiteboards enhanced language lessons when teachers used visual aids to reinforce vocabulary and grammar lessons
- Spontaneous lessons were easily supported with a SMART Board interactive whiteboard
- Student engagement significantly increased when a SMART Board interactive whiteboard was used in conjunction with a classroom audio system

Research brief