



CAIS/CESI National Tracking Project

We live in an age of educational accountability. Independent schools are actively engaged in research that will help to improve themselves and they are proactively demonstrating that the education they provide is superior in all ways.

The National Tracking Pilot Project was undertaken last spring to support this endeavor to improve schools. This summer, individual schools will begin to collect and analyze data that will be used to change programmes and services to schools. It is our hope that they will use this data to effect important change. The data collected nationally will create a comprehensive national database on student success in post secondary education. Individual school results may also be used immediately to help schools identify where to focus attention and resources to enhance student learning, teaching and overall school effectiveness.

In spring of 2006, schools were invited to participate in a pilot project. It was the hope of CESI to receive applications from 12 schools from across Canada. By June 2006, CESI decided to limit participation in this pilot project to 29 schools. In the fall of 2006, CAIS and CESI agreed to co-sponsor the project. Most of the schools in the pilot are in both organizations, and we believe that both national organizations should be collaborating more often to increase the value of what independent schools have to offer.

As a result of the pilot and the work of Donna Alexander (BHS) and the National Tracking Project Coordinating Committee, a detailed handbook and set of protocols have been developed to support schools in collecting, organizing, and analyzing the post-secondary achievement results of their graduates. This material is now available to all CAIS/CESI schools across Canada.

In order to cover the logistical costs of managing the project, all participating schools will be expected to pay an annual fee of \$500. In return for this fee they will receive: logistical support and training for school personnel; updates of the data collection manual and protocols; and, annual aggregate data reports of national findings and trends in order to contextualize their individual school results. For new schools entering the project in the spring of 2007 there will be a one-time start-up fee of \$250 to cover initial orientation and materials. There is no additional fee for schools that participated in the pilot.

Pilot study schools that wish to continue to take part in the National Tracking Project, and new schools wishing to join the project are asked to complete the registration form available on either the CESI or CAIS websites.

We look forward to your participation in this important project.

Anne-Marie

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