



What is ABEL?

Advanced Broadband Enabled Learning (ABEL) strives to improve results through knowledge sharing, collaboration and its public and private sector partnerships. Employing a research-based approach, ABEL supports the effective use of new and existing information communications technologies (ICT) to encourage innovation. This combination of networks, partnerships and a focus on research drives innovative models for teaching, training and learning to create new opportunities and to support institutional transformation.

Founded in 2002, this award-winning program is led and funded by York University and the York Region District School Board (YRDSB). Since its inception, ABEL has developed a reputation for excellence and expertise across Canada, and has established national and international credibility as a leading authority on new modes of teaching, training, learning and collaboration.

ABEL actively contributes to the development and sustainability of new models of teaching, training and learning. Collaboration, innovation and transformation are hallmarks of ABEL's success, and contribute to transformation by building collective knowledge, capabilities and resources. To achieve this, ABEL focuses on Five Core Activities.

The Five Core Activities of ABEL

Professional Learning

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Using a blended learning strategy, ABEL provides a variety of professional learning programs that support and model the effective use of technology for learning:

- ABEL Training Days: Tool Specific Training and Job-Embedded Learning
- ABEL Professional Learning Webcast Series
- ABEL Leadership Roundtable
- ABEL Digital Literacy Leadership Seminar Series
- ABEL Self-Directed Professional Learning
- ABEL Independent Professional Learning
- ABEL Speaker's Series
- Additional Qualification Opportunities (in co-operation with York University's Faculty of Education)

These programs are participant-driven and accredited where possible.

ABEL also organizes an annual Summer Institute where delegates participate in hands-on learning sessions, workshops and presentations, and network with each other to affect practice. For more information on ABEL's professional learning programs, please visit the ABEL website at www.abelearn.ca.

Resources and Content

ABEL maintains an online learning community, and supports the development of, and access to, learning resources and content for curriculum and professional learning. A number of online courses and resources have been developed by the ABEL Program Office to provide members with information on how the latest tools and technology can be implemented effectively for learning.

ABEL's videography team captures and streams videos from ABEL Streaming for ABEL members. Community and school events, conferences, and professional learning webcast videos are delivered to provide ABEL members with quality learning resources to enhance professional development, as well as to connect members to each other and experts.

Tools and Services

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ABEL offers an extensive network to enable online communication among practitioners, leaders, and professionals to improve their practice. This is achieved by providing access to pedagogical support, technological assistance, and the use of collaborative and innovative applications and tools, all seamlessly accessible through the ABEL community.

ABEL's tools are divided into six categories:

- Collaboration
- Online Streaming & Digital Media
- Gaming in Education
- Web Content Management
- External Resource Links
- Research Pilots

Networks and Partnerships

ABEL values its public and private sector partnerships. ABEL has engaged in and maintained successful and beneficial collaborations that have allowed both the partners and the program to improve results and transform practice.

Mobilization through Research

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ABEL regularly conducts research and evaluation focused on technology-enhanced learning, collaboration and effective implementation strategies. This research informs the program's improvement for leading edge innovative practice. ABEL also participates as a partner in research projects with other agencies, institutions and private sector partners providing opportunities for applied research that impacts institutional change, policy making and capacity building.

