

# OverDrive Pilot

## Introduction and Background:

It is important for each School Library System (SLS) to have a plan in place for resource sharing. This allows member libraries to maximize what they are able to share and to yield the greatest return on investment. Furthermore, this plan is for materials that fall outside the core curricular collection maintained by school libraries.

The Orleans Niagara BOCES SLS identified cooperative collection development as a goal in its 2021-2026 5 Year Plan of Service. Specifically, the SLS noted the need for a single sign on delivery platform that would allow for cooperative collection development regionally, and could also provide cost-effective electronic access to a broad range of EBook and audiobook content.

OverDrive Education and its K12 application SORA were favored highly in SLS annual survey results and among SLS Council for consideration, and this pilot provides an opportunity to explore the platform and content it provides.

## Scope

All Orleans Niagara BOCES SLS districts will be eligible to participate in a regional OverDrive / SORA pilot collection. The SLS will utilize roll over funding to support the collection each year during the two year pilot program. Content will be chosen by three separate committees of school librarians representing elementary, middle, and high school levels. All SLS purchased content will be shared among all participating school districts.

During the pilot program, school districts have the opportunity to purchase additional OverDrive/SORA content for individual schools or district through OverDrive Advantage Accounts. The district may notify the SLS office of their desire to buy additional content and return a signed renewal form. Additional content for individual schools or districts will be processed through CoSer 565 Library Resources – Online databases.

The SLS and OverDrive will help guide participating districts and schools in the setup of OverDrive access by working with their information technology teams and library departments.

## Objectives

- To understand how OverDrive/SORA content can be used to support literacy in schools.
- To strengthen the total library holdings within member school libraries
- To increase the number and variety of library materials available to library users
- To improve user access to library materials
- To improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of collection development
- To provide access to materials to help special needs students (large print, text-to-audio, text color...)
- Support school initiatives supporting 1:1 device atmosphere

## Resources

OverDrive vendor agreements and Education Law Section 2-D compliance is maintained by Orleans Niagara BOCES' membership in the DREAM consortium through Capital Region BOCES. DREAM Consortium supplemental information and Education Law Section 2-D documents are posted on our website: <https://www.onboces.org/Page/1465> .

## Costs

With the exception of any additional content that a district or school would like to purchase for its own use through CoSer 565 Library Resources – Online Databases, there is no charge to districts or schools to participate in the regional OverDrive / SORA pilot. The Orleans Niagara BOCES School Library System will utilize roll over funding to purchase content for SY22-23 and SY23-24.

## Schedule of Key Activities

### **March 2022**

- Overview of SORA app, OverDrive content, SSO access, licenses, and marketplace.
- System decides whether to pursue pilot.

### **Spring 2022**

- SLS Director notifies system and introduces plan to system members to pursue OverDrive/SORA pilot.
- SLS Communication Coordinators provide contact information for I.T. departments.
- OverDrive reaches out to I.T. Departments to set up single sign on access. Elementary, Middle, High School Students, and Teachers will receive different content access levels based primarily on graduation year or building location.
- Initial content purchased.

### **Fall 2022**

- SLS Director follows up with OverDrive, IT departments, and SLS Communication Coordinators to help facilitate access for schools and districts.
- First Training sessions are provided to system.
- Promotional materials are shared by OverDrive with school librarians to share out to teachers and students in schools and districts.
- Review of existing content.

### **Winter 2022 and spring 2023**

- Monitor pilot implementation, additional content purchased, additional training and promotion provided.

## Success Criteria

All districts will have the opportunity to set up and explore the OverDrive/SORA platform and content if they choose to. Participating district librarians will better understand the types of licenses offered by publishers and how they are managed. Participating district teachers and librarians will better

understand how to use the accessibility features that the content and platform offers. Participating district students will have the opportunity to electronically access a broad range of EBook and audiobook content with single sign on access.

## Evaluation

The Orleans Niagara BOCES School Library System will utilize its SLS Council and Communication Coordinator meetings to discuss implementation progress in districts and provide feedback on purchased content. SLS Communicators will communicate with district personnel and notify the system office of recommended purchases to ensure OverDrive/SORA content is reaching teachers and students.

The SLS will form three committees of school librarians representing elementary, middle, and high school levels. The SLS committees will take suggestions on recommended purchases and review these to make additional purchases throughout the pilot.

The SLS office and council will draft a pilot survey that will be sent out to districts to complete and provide feedback on the effectiveness of delivery and desirability of OverDrive/SORA platform content. The survey will be sent out to districts two times – once at the end of each implementation year.

The SLS office will communicate survey results with the system. And provide data to Orleans Niagara BOCES for discussion of next steps.

The SLS will arrange for training on the collection of usage statistics for school librarians. The SLS will also collect and report OverDrive / SORA usage statistics to Orleans Niagara BOCES for discussion of next steps.

## Risks

There is very little risk to districts to participate. The SLS office will utilize roll-over funding to pay for the cost of the pilot for participating districts for two years. Any remaining licenses for content will be available for districts to enjoy so long as they are valid. Participating districts will need to have IT staff work with OverDrive to set up SSO and ensure the platform is accessible by district personnel and students. If they choose to, districts IT staff are encouraged to deploy the SORA app on student and teacher 1:1 devices (if applicable).