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■ MORE INITIATIVES TO BETTER ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILLS

The Government has unveiled more initiatives to help students improve their English speaking skills.

One is an English language Institute to be launched by next year to train English language teachers.

Another is an Oracy portal, which will be implemented in schools by 2012.

The portal, which pilots in several schools this year, has a suite of applications for students

to practise their oral skills.

It is part of the Ministry of Education's (MOE) masterplan to integrate information, communications and technology in schools.

Education Senior Minister of State S Iswaran said: "MOE really would like this to be a ground up approach where schools innovate according to their circumstances and their needs and then go on from there." WANG ENG ENG