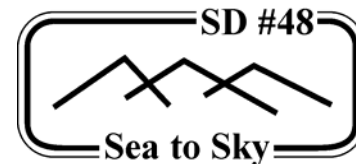


BCeSIS Newsletter



November 13, 2008

Issue #21

BCeSIS (BC enterprise Student Information System) is a software application for BC schools to use as a common student information system, providing access to a central student registry and permanent student record. BCeSIS reduces the administrative burden on teachers and schools, enables student flexibility and choice, enhances communication between homes, classrooms and educational leaders as well as facilitating collection and movement of student records. The software provides parents, teachers, principals, planning councils, and educational leaders with an efficient, Internet accessible tool to manage student information and make informed educational decisions.

District Update

With the conversion and uploading of Pemberton Secondary, Whistler Secondary and the Reconnect/Outreach School, all schools are now live in BCeSIS.

Pemberton and Whistler will be scheduling students and building next year's school timetable in BCeSIS in Spring 09. Selected staff from both schools will attend a two day pre-scheduling workshop in Vancouver, in the new year.

Schools have been experiencing some significant BCeSIS performance issues over the two months and particularly this past week with the entering of marks and report cards. Some of the issues are provincial problems while others are because of infrastructure problems within the district. A consultant was called in end of September to address some of the district's in house difficulties particularly at WSS. The shut down that occurred on November 7th as schools attempted to enter marks was a result of very sharp increase in "Blocked User Sessions". This typically happens when users kill a session by closing their browser window, then log back in and return to the same screen that they left. Because the first session was "killed" the application continues to support the first session in vain, and the second session is blocked from the screen.

BCeSIS Plan Set for 2008-09:

Key BCeSIS initiatives approved by the Service Management Council for 2007/08 are finished or well underway. SMC Executive Committee members have confirmed priorities for 2008/09.

High on the list for the coming year are the remaining services included in the MOU that school districts signed to participate in BCeSIS.

In addition to new school district implementation and training, priorities for 2008/09 include:

- Implementing the full Student Services module in more districts—five districts for Sept., with others to follow;
- Parent/Student Assistant—the plan is to pilot PA between October and December;
- Continuous Entry Learning (Distributed Learning) - develop and test system; and
- Operational Reporting (Executive Assistant) - review system infrastructure requirements and set up, and prepare for pilots.

Work on Parent Assistant and other new Java-enabled features will also lay the foundation for the new Teacher Assistant module.

"The SMC Executive is very clear that BCeSIS must support student learning achievement, positively impact educational practices, and improve the efficiency of administration." says BCeSIS Project Director, Jackie Marr. "The project work plan supports those goals."

The SMC Executive Committee annually reviews priorities so that resources and expenditures can be appropriately allocated and progress on BCeSIS goals can be tracked.

Student Services Module Completes Implementation:

The full Student Services module has moved from project status to being part of regular BCeSIS operations. The shift concludes an extensive testing and implementation project which was phased in starting more than a year ago, says Eric Maitland, the provincial BCeSIS client services manager.

Ten districts are now using Student Services Full: Bulkley Valley, Kamloops, Kootenay Lakes, Maple Ridge, Merritt, Nechako Lakes, Prince George, Quesnel, Rocky Mountain and Southeast Kootenay.

Five districts participated in earlier user acceptance testing, piloted the full module this past January, and moved into production in the Spring. A second group implemented the module at the start of this school year. In September, the BCeSIS team also began preparing for the next wave of implementation: another 10 districts have expressed interest in beginning the implementation process in October, which would see them in production by February.

“Feedback has been really positive. Districts started off implementation slowly by focusing on the most familiar functionality (the Individual Education Plans). Now we’re hearing from many that they want to branch out and move to full implementation more quickly than originally planned,” says Chris Wilson, the provincial BCeSIS implementation coordinator.

To ensure that Student Services operations continue to go smoothly, Student Services representatives will soon begin participating in weekly calls which are held between the BCeSIS provincial team and level one and other district staff around B.C.

“We look forward to having special needs educators add to the knowledge base that’s already on the weekly call,” says Eric. “Their participation will continue to build on the collaboration amongst districts that are using the Student Services Full Module.

Important Reminders:

Print PSR Cards

- When a student moves from one district to another, a PSR card must be printed and sent to the receiving school.

Reduce Duplicates

- When registering students, please double check whether their records are already on BCeSIS. About half of B.C. students are now on the system, so there’s a very good chance that when a new student record is needed, its been created before. Duplicate entries create far-reaching problems for schools, districts and students and are time consuming and frustrating to fix. The best way to resolve them is to avoid creating them.

BCeSIS Statistics as of Sept. 15 –21

BCeSIS schools: 1,200

Total number of active students: 344,996

of reports run for the week: 87,241

Anticipated Dates (September 08 – June 09)	Activities	Completed
September – November 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ongoing support for Pemberton/Whistler/RAP schools focused on clerical functionality, attendance, gradebook, and report card production ■ Report card, 1701 and TRAX support ■ Report Card pilot project with four elementary schools 	Ongoing
December 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ongoing support for all schools 	
January 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Report card, 1701, and TRAX support ■ Dinner meeting with Clerical to discuss BCeSIS (January 15th, 2009) 	
February 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Secondary timetabling training and support 1 to 2 days. WSS & PSS ■ Clerical meeting on Pro-D day: one of the topics being BCeSIS 	
March 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Report card support 	
April 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ BCeSIS elementary reporting system feedback and recommendations. ■ Report card and TRAX support. ■ Scheduling course – 3 to 4 days. WSS & PSS 	
May 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ongoing support for schools 	
June 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ongoing support for all schools focused on report cards, TRAX, and preparation for YET 	

The important part of BCeSIS is creating a system which will help:

- **improve student achievement;**
- **inform teachers, students and parents of progress and remediation efforts; and**
- **enable all of us to do a better job.**

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We welcome you to contact us if you have questions or concerns about BCeSIS and its implementation in SD #48.