



# BCeSIS News

## Message from the Chair

It is hard to believe but we have reached the end of another school year! Having passed our five year milestone with BCeSIS and we are now looking forward to moving on with new priorities and increasing the educational value of BCeSIS. The Executive has been engaged in the development of a five year plan. A lot of work has gone into this process and we hope to highlight some for you in this issue.

Also, Norm Walker has met with districts across the province and completed a framework for sustainability with input from districts. I would like to extend our gratitude to Norm for his work with the districts as well as his commitment to BCeSIS over the last several years. Norm will be retiring this month and he takes with him a wealth of experience with BCeSIS. I encourage folks to contact Norm with any questions or advice pertaining to strategies for building district capacity. We hope that SMC reps find these tools useful for engaging their end users.

On behalf of the SMC Executive, I wish you all a pleasant and restful summer.

*Ernie Mannering, SD91*

## BCeSIS Standards Review Complete

The BCeSIS Standards Manual is a very important resource for districts and has recently undergone a thorough review and update. The scope of the document includes standardization of common operational processes, schedules, software configuration and coding within BCeSIS. The appendices on data quality, privacy protection, and pre-scheduling and school start up checklists are attached.

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## ...BCeSIS Standards Review cont'd

The manual outlines standards for a wide range of business processes such as administration, security, admissions, registration, courses, attendance, scheduling, graduation and diplomas, incident management, fees, year End Transition, Teacher Assistant, Student Services, Ministry reporting and more.

The review and update was completed by the OSWG (Operations & Standards Working Group Committee). All changes

were approved by the SMC by referendum. In many cases, the improper use of functionality will impact other areas of the system, therefore once adopted, it is expected that all district users will comply with the standards.

Users can access the manual on the ISW under the District Collaboration Center ([www.isw-bc.ca](http://www.isw-bc.ca)). For questions or information please contact your Service Management Council representative. ■

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*“Creating regional groups is a positive move towards enabling districts to support each other and address issues unique to their region.” Norm Walker*

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### The Five Year Plan

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BCeSIS is now available in over 90% of BC public schools and 75% of independent schools that signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Nearly 95% of students in BC public schools currently have their records in BCeSIS.

The SMC Executive is working closely together with the Ministry to produce a five year plan that will increase the educational value of BCeSIS and enhance service for all users.

Three documents have been produced: a BCeSIS usage profile, a Service Delivery funding strategy and a proposal for a five year work plan.

The completed usage profile provides baseline information on the use of BCeSIS and informed the overall planning process.

### Supporting Sustainability

Towards the end of last year the Service Management Council identified as a priority the need to build capacity and support sustainability of BCeSIS within the districts. The document entitled *Supporting Sustainability of BCeSIS* is now posted on the ISW ([www.isw.bc.ca](http://www.isw.bc.ca)) under Service Management Council/Downloadable Documents. Many districts have provided very useful feedback and shared their own stories. Most of the strategies encourage focused and targeted planning and the mitigation of risk associated with staff turnover and training.

The concept of creating regional user groups around the province is one of many recommended strategies in the framework. By working together within regions, districts have the opportunity to collaborate on common problems, share resources and provide support to users.

The BCeSIS Southern Consortium is a regional user group that has held regular scheduled meetings in the Lower Mainland. Many districts in other regions have shown interest and recognized the value in creating similar user groups to build support, learn and share. While districts with the advantage of close proximity have more opportunity to meet face to face, those with geographical constraints may consider the use of video conferencing and other technology to support their efforts.

“Creating regional groups is a positive move towards enabling districts to support each other and address issues unique to their region.” says Norm Walker.

The BCeSIS Southern Consortium has begun to post information on a moodle site. Visit [www.bcesisusers.org](http://www.bcesisusers.org) for more information and/or contact your SMC representative about joining or creating a user group in your region. ■



## The Five Year Plan

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This helps to ensure that efforts are aligned to maximize educational value objectives over time.

Redefining the Service Delivery funding model came at an opportune time as more information is now known about usage patterns and demand by districts. The new model refines the core package by eliminating common services that are no longer needed and adding the option to access services unique to some districts, without increasing the cost to all.

The proposed work plan outlines the availability of new functionality and timeframes needed for districts to complete research, testing and deployment.

The Executive will continue to engage the wider SMC in this process over the next several months. For more information please contact Ernie Mannering at [emannering@mail.sd91.bc.ca](mailto:emannering@mail.sd91.bc.ca) ■

## Educational Value: Tracking Progress

Priorities identified last spring by the SMC identified the need to focus on delivering educational value. The SMC has successfully completed a usage profile that provides a snapshot of how the system is being used across the province. The usage profile provides important baseline information needed to measure value and inform planning. Key findings include:

- ◆ Primary uses of BCeSIS at this time are admin related (student registrations, course scheduling, timetables, Ministry reporting and yearly start-up and closures). Classroom usage is primarily by Secondary teachers for attendance and report cards.
- ◆ User groups with the largest % of active users are Secondary Teachers, Counselling staff and school clerical/Admin. Elementary Teachers are planned to have the largest usage % increases.
- ◆ Major usage growth is planned for student services, student intervention, standardized testing, distance learning and summer school.
- ◆ Significant effort is required by districts for technical and user support, with structured peer-based assistance emerging as the primary training resource.

Priorities for future development include enhancing usability and new functionality for reporting, analysis, parent access and Continuous Entry Learning (CEL) schools. Creating capacity and sustaining basic operations will be essential to successful adoption and use of new functionality. The profile will be completed annually to track progress and guide planning. For more information please contact Craig Forgrave at [Craig.Forgrave@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Craig.Forgrave@gov.bc.ca). ■

## BCeSIS Stats

Current # of BCeSIS schools and  
Strong Start Centers:  
**1967**

Current # of active Students & early  
learners:  
**605,505**

Max# of users logging on in a day:  
**15,096**

Number of distinct logins for the  
week:  
**60,624**

Number of reports run for the week:  
**14,800**

## BCeSIS Supports District Assessments

The District Assessment Advisory group (DAA) has successfully completed recommendations on how to implement district assessments within BCeSIS. The desired outcome is to have district assessment results take a more standardized approach and have results included in the student record. This outcome simplifies reporting and the transferability of student records between districts.

The next phase of the initiative will begin this fall. Each district will need to determine how they will standardize assessment scores into a four-point performance scale. Once the district has completed this phase, districts will be able to bulk load performance scale results into BCeSIS. For more information contact Victoria at [Victoria.Williams@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Victoria.Williams@gov.bc.ca) ■

## BCeSIS Users Conference Update

This year the Executive was sad to announce the decision to cancel this year's users' conference. The planning committee received feedback from a survey that indicated that the number of participants would be significantly lower than in previous years due to the current economic challenges faced by districts. The Executive is committed to supporting districts through regional meetings and other user groups. Districts are encouraged to plug into the Southern Consortium for information on future meetings and to consider creating opportunities to meet in their own region. Visit [www.bcesisusers.org](http://www.bcesisusers.org) for more information or contact your SMC representative. ■

Does your district have BCeSIS news to share with other districts? Share your progress with us. Contact Stephanie at [Stephanie.Campbell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Campbell@gov.bc.ca)

