

September 2005 Status Report

The purpose of these status reports is to provide iGroup schools with information about the activities of the iGroup Coordinator and the iGroup Executive over the previous month. Most of what has been happening in the last month has been behind the scenes, and many of you have been wondering how things are proceeding.

1. The first task was to understand the state of iGroup schools, in terms of their timelines for implementation and readiness for BCeSIS. This led to the creation of the survey that was sent out to all schools that have signed the MOU. The response was excellent, and provided valuable information for planning. As a result of the survey, three waves of implementation have been proposed. Wave 1, a pilot group, with a scheduled go-live date of late January or early February 2006. Wave 2, the majority of schools, with a scheduled go-live date of September 2006. Wave 3, the remaining schools, are scheduled for some time in 2007. The decision criteria for setting up the implementation waves, was based both on input from the schools through the survey and also the training resources available to the iGroup.
2. A major issue that needed to be addressed before implementation could start was how to train both end-users and possibly more iGroup Trainers. Since training is the responsibility of the iGroup, a strategic plan for training needed to be created. This strategic plan had to take into account the budgetary constraints of the iGroup and the widespread geographical locations of iGroup schools, and also sustain the long-term requirements (i.e. more schools signing the MOU). After much deliberation, many proposals, alternative options, and input from the BCeSIS project team, a training strategy was approved by the iGroup Executive. This plan is outlined in detail under the documentation section of the website.
3. The final area that was addressed was the Level 1 Helpdesk Support. The BCeSIS provincial team requires that districts, in this case the iGroup, has Level 1 Support in place before any schools can go live. Again because of the budgetary constraints of the iGroup and the geographical location of iGroup schools many options were considered. A plan was finally approved that meets both the short-term and long-term needs of the iGroup. Information on the help desk will become available as soon as people and resources are in place.

As can be seen, my first month on the job has mostly been concerned with developing plans that will carry us forward for the next couple of years. The coming months will see much more activity in terms of bringing trainers and Level 1 support people on staff and the scheduling of training for our pilot group. Please continue to check the website weekly for updated information, and feel free to e-mail me at anytime with questions or concerns.

Thank you

Andrew Smit
BCeSIS iGroup Coordinator.