

CONNECTIONS

DIGITAL SERVICES BOARD NEWSLETTER



FALL 2023

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From the co-chair

The Digital Services Board is excited to share our most recent newsletter, Connections – Fall 2023. Members of the DSB are committed to bringing value to B.C.'s school districts with “best-in-class” digital services and tools to support B.C. educators in their work.

This edition highlights significant service enhancements that include MyEducation BC improvements and the debut of MyEducation BC Insights, a user-friendly student achievement analytics and reporting tool powered by Microsoft Power BI. Also, be sure to read about the enhanced ShareEdBC website, the benefits of the Education Data Exchange, the potential and promise of the provincial SDWAN pilot, and what's next with Next Gen Telecom Services initiatives.

With ongoing support from the Ministry of Education and Child Care, Services & Technology Division, the DSB will continue to work to represent and respond to current and future digital service needs of B.C. school districts.

*Jon Rever, Co-chair, Digital Services Board
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Central Okanagan Public Schools (SD23)*



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care



MyEducation BC upgrades

The MyEducation BC team, together with Fujitsu, recently launched upgrades to better serve districts, educators, and students in B.C. and Yukon.

Over the summer, MyEducation BC upgraded to the enhanced Aspen 6.6 system, which includes improved icons, updates to some attendance features and the capacity to develop APS.

In addition to the Aspen 6.6 upgrade, new functionality to support changes to the K to 12 Reporting Order were launched to allow districts, schools, and teachers to produce, print, and publish learning updates. These learning updates are available in French or English for any school type and grade term configuration for all primary and secondary schools and courses, and at all grade levels, in a single student report.

The student graduation status update was also introduced to allow schools to print and publish student graduation status updates in French or English, summarizing student progress toward graduation for all graduation programs for students in grades 10 to 12.

The MyEducation BC team is excited to continue development on APIs and launch the first round of learning updates in November 2023.

Introducing Insights

Over the past year, the MyEducation BC team and the Service Management Council have supported the transition of MyEducation BC Analytics to the Microsoft Power BI platform.

Phase 1 of the project has been focused on replicating the previous MyEducation BC Analytics dashboards, which are available to view for all district administrators. These dashboards can be used to support school and district data dives, and for the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) cohorts. For access to your district's data through MyEducation BC's Power BI instance, please contact your level one support staff.

The MyEducation BC team is continuing to develop new dashboards on Power BI which will be released in early 2024 under the new MyEducation BC Insights program.

We will be reaching out to you and your Service Management Council representative for support as we build a community of practice.



New look for ShareEDBC

ShareEdBC has a new look! With a new school year, came a new public-facing homepage to ShareEdBC.ca. In addition to the new homepage, significant effort was put into appropriately categorizing the existing resources in the platform to allow for a better user experience when searching through the 3000-plus resources available to educators. The ministry is also developing a more seamless authentication process for pre-service educators to create accounts, which will be launched in December 2023.



SDWAN Pilot Project

The ministry is working in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to pilot Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SDWAN) technology with school districts 6, 23, 36, 43 and 61.

SDWAN is a technology that uses software to improve connectivity and manage network traffic and services between cloud/data centers and sites (e.g. schools). Some of the benefits of this technology include better resiliency, redundancy, and potential cost savings by leveraging cheaper consumer links. The project is currently in the implementation phase.

The pilot will run until January 2024, giving sufficient time to test the solution and collect feedback from pilot districts. Results of the SDWAN pilot will be presented to the Digital Services Board with recommendations on next steps.

Education Data Exchange

The Education Data Exchange (EDX) will modernize how schools and districts share vital decision-making data with the ministry, making the process faster and more efficient. The project is set to launch in three phases, starting in fall/winter 2023 with two new functions:

- Secure messaging – a user-friendly and protected avenue for schools to share personal student information with the ministry. The change will strengthen existing processes and ensure compliance with provincial privacy legislation.
- Self-serve information updates – an intuitive, web-based self-serve feature for schools and districts to update their own information, such as addresses and phone numbers.

The third phase will be a streamlined 1701 data collection process, currently targeted to launch in spring 2024.

Visit the new [EDX information hub](#) to learn more about the project and how it will strengthen the accuracy of submitted data by reducing manual processes and submission steps.

Next-Gen Telecom

The Telecom Office with the Ministry of Citizen Services is actively engaged in the procurement process for the Next Generation Telecom Services. The announcement for the successful proponents and contract awards is expected to be completed by early January 2024.

Following the contract award, transition activities to the new contract will begin. Transition will include all activities necessary to move services under the TSMA/ TSMA lite currently in use in school districts to the new Next Gen Telecom Agreement.

Transition Planning

Over the summer, the project team conducted a change impact analysis to identify changes from current state to the future state, using the current TSMA contract and the newer NextGen RFP, across the areas of technology, business, people, and process. This preliminary analysis, validated by the Transition Working Group (TWG), determined gaps and differences, and helped define the level of impact in each area. The analysis will be refined once the final contracts are released to inform training requirements and all essential adjustments for process, workflows and procedures.

The ministry has also been busy consulting key school district representatives and evaluating options for the operating model within which the NextGen contract will operate. These will be shared with broader school districts once finalized.

Work also continues to evaluate options for governance, which is being designed to accommodate the new multi-provider service model to provide effective contract oversight and decision making. Currently a participation agreement for school districts is being drafted, which will be available for review in the coming months.

Your questions and feedback are important to us, so please reach out through the [project email](#) for more information.

