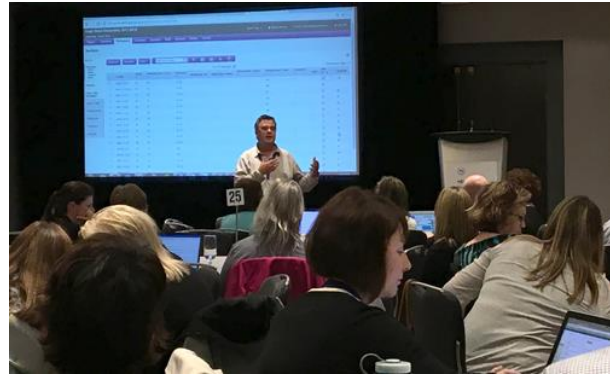


## MyEducation BC Academy educates and inspires

“The best MyEdBC Academy yet” – that was the message from several attendees who travelled to Richmond, BC on May 15-16, 2017 to attend the annual MyEducation BC education and training conference. More than 300 individuals from around British Columbia and the Yukon gathered to take in more than 30 sessions, and to collaborate with peers. “As always, this conference is an extremely valuable resource for networking and tip sharing,” said one of the attendees.



“I like getting a chance to hash out different obstacles and successes we have had and learn new things from the excellent group of people,” commented another.

Attendees reported leaving feeling more knowledgeable and looking forward to going back to their districts to try out what they’d learned: “A great couple of days. I felt pumped up to come back and try some more!”

Details on next year’s Academy will be announced in early 2018.

## New MyEducation BC Analytics tool supports decision making, data validation, and accessibility

On May 15, 2017, a new analytics and reporting tool was launched for use by school districts. Called MyEducation BC Analytics, the system offers improved data accessibility, meaningful school and district performance data to help inform decision-making, and enhanced data validation tools. The system offers both current and historical data, giving users the potential to perform longitudinal analysis and to report information from any past point in time.

All users have access to a number of predefined dashboards, reports, and other visualizations, which can be manipulated and exported without advanced programming knowledge. Those with more advanced skills are able to create custom dashboards, reports, and visualizations. All users will have access to a collaboration page to share information about dashboards, visualizations, and templates.

Each school district is being provided with two user accounts by the Ministry of Education at no cost. Users must have a Business BCeID. User account requests should be sent to the Fujitsu service desk by your Service Management Council (SMC) representative. Other questions about MyEducation BC Analytics can be sent to [andrew.macauley@gov.bc.ca](mailto:andrew.macauley@gov.bc.ca).

## Family Portal benefiting students, parents, and teachers in Cariboo-Chilcotin

School District 27 Cariboo-Chilcotin knew from the beginning that they wanted to use MyEducation BC's Family Portal functionality.

"Staff and parents have wanted a method of communication between school and home that does not involve physically going to the school or phone calls," explained Ken Matieshen, District Principal of Information Technology.



Recognizing MyEducation BC provided the platform they needed, the district began a pilot project at their two largest secondary schools in the fall of 2015. According to Matieshen, the project quickly gained traction and was well received by parents and teachers due to the parent and student access to classroom marks and attendance. Given the level of success, all parents at the two pilot schools were given access to the portal in June 2016. In the fall of 2016, the project was expanded to rural junior secondary schools.

SD27's IT Department provided training and support throughout the implementation process. Teachers received individualized training after school, during prep time, or by booking a floater sub; students were provided in-class training; and how-to videos were created and posted online for parents and students.

Overall, the project has had many successes, including:

- Reducing parental requests, complaints, and concerns at both the office and classroom level
- Increasing and enabling communication between teachers and parents
- Enabling teachers to share students' assignments, reports, and course notes
- Improving parental engagement with their children's academic success

Of course, no project is without its challenges. To help alleviate issues surrounding password resets, the district creates custom login usernames that match students' active directory logins, and maintains constant interaction between teachers and the IT department for password resets. Students are encouraged to contact the IT department directly if they have password issues, and parents are emailed on a regular basis.

Overall, said Matieshen, the project has been rewarding for teachers, administrators, students, and staff. "We adopted a voluntary approach to teachers using the portal, and have about 80 percent using the module," he noted. The district hopes to increase that number in the future, and plans to move forward with implementation at their Continuing Education and Distance Education Program.

Have a great story related to MyEducation BC? Have a comment about something you've read? Email [myedbc@gov.bc.ca](mailto:myedbc@gov.bc.ca) with your ideas and feedback.

## Reflecting on 2016/17

*By Quirina Gamblen, Chair, Service Management Council*

A demanding but productive school year is drawing to a close. Before heading out for summer holidays, it is fitting to reflect on how far we have come and where we are going. Together, 56 districts, the Ministry of Education, and our education partners have connected, collaborated, and shared learning opportunities and resources, as well as launched the largest multi-district student information project in North America. With conversion now well behind us, we are now in operations mode and moving forward. In spite of challenges with resourcing, tight timelines, capacity building, and engagement, we remain focused on what matters most: continuing to support student learning and build our capacity to leverage systems and technology that support education transformation.

We have a tradition of collaboration that is unique. As I consider the events of this past year, I think about the work and the dedication of all of the members of our Service Management Council Executive, our standing committees, and their working groups—Operations and Standards, Software Enhancement, Data Integration, and Student Learning—as well as our provincial colleagues and partners working together to improve MyEducation BC functionality and the user experience. I want to thank them for their contributions and their willingness to overcome constraints and challenges as they initiate new opportunities.

We continue to pursue opportunities for enrichment, networking and learning. This year the fall conference and spring Academy provided chances to share ideas, set priorities, and plan ahead. We appreciate the efforts of our conference committees to bring us together in this way and we look forward to our next conference in the fall.

We still have a lot to do—learning and work will continue throughout the summer. I am mindful that next year we will face new challenges while we continue to improve the capacity of MyEducation BC. I hope you are able to take time to energize and enjoy time spent with family and friends over the summer holidays, and I wish you safe and happy travels. For those of you retiring, I wish you all the best; and for those of you moving on to other opportunities, congratulations, and I look forward to your continued support for our collective work.

Thank you all for your knowledge, experience, energy, time, and commitment. I look forward to working with you next year.

### Projects and Accomplishments, 2016/17

- Projects: continuing courses, simplified and competency-based IEPs, attendance, K-9 reporting, summer school 1701, class size and composition, grad program 2018, K-9 learning standards
- Software Enhancement Committee 2016/17 minor enhancements (5), and selection for 2017/18
- Rollout of MyEducation BC Analytics, updated online Standards Manual, and HEAT replacement for Pando
- Release 5.6 implementation
- New SMC sub-committees: Student Learning Committee and Data Integration Committee

## SMC Standing Committee Corner

The Service Management Council (SMC) is comprised of representatives from each school district appointed by each superintendent. The SMC has four standing committees: Operations and Standards Committee, Student Learning Committee, Software Enhancement Committee, and Data Integration Committee. These committees, along with the Counsellors Working Group, provide guidance and input on the evolution of MyEducation BC. Brief updates from the SMC's committees and Counsellor's Working Group are below. For more information, contact your district's SMC representative, which is listed under "MyED BC Contact" on the [School Districts - Basic Information page](#).

Group	What We're Up To	Contact
<b>Operations &amp; Standards Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The OSC thanks everyone for helping make MyEdBC an ever more useful and convenient tool for student data and learning management, and reminds those with concerns or suggestions for improvement to forward their ideas for discussion</li> <li>➤ Currently wrapping up UAT on the Active Date/Continuing Courses project, with a goal to implement for new school year</li> <li>➤ Attendance project moving forward with time-saving improvements input slated for fall, with other improvements to follow</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Phil Luporini</a>
<b>Student Learning Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exploring Notifications and Subscriptions functionality, issues with averages in Details side tab in Family Portal, a Mini IEP currently used by Rhode Island, and a Select Student/Contact User option in Student and Family views</li> <li>➤ Projects: IEP Workflow Simplification targeted for rollout in August, and new K-9 Report on Student Learning (Summative Report Card) delayed to September</li> <li>➤ Submitting the following enhancement requests: Standards-based gradebook PDF report, Course Details WYSIWYG Editor, and improvements to Family Portal report card access report</li> <li>➤ Gathering requirements for a student portfolio tool</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Jarrod Bell</a>
<b>Software Enhancement Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Committee continues to work with Fujitsu on three remaining enhancement requests from 2016/17</li> <li>➤ Of the over 200 enhancement requests received for 2017/18, 21 have been submitted to Fujitsu for assessment and feedback</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Surinder Brar</a>
<b>Data Integration Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Completed and analysed district survey, gaining strong mandate to move forward to make data more easily accessible to districts</li> <li>➤ Bringing forward to SMC Executive approval to work with the provincial team in defining business requirements for access to data and integration with district applications</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Peter Jory</a>
<b>Counsellors Working Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Met three times to discuss functionality issues. For counsellors, biggest step forward has been implementation of At Risk module to monitor higher risk students, and to help sort students for other reasons, such as honour roll</li> <li>➤ Discussing challenges around balancing class size and composition issues given Supreme Court ruling. Ministry of Education, Fujitsu, and Follett working to make improvements to MyEdBC to accommodate the new contract requirements</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Trisha Umlah</a> or <a href="#">Iain Lancaster</a>