School districts report data remains priority, continued decline in district-level support

An annual survey of BC school districts and Yukon shows a continued focus on data capability and integration, and a decline in the number of full-time staff supporting MyEducation BC. The 2017/18 Business Value Framework survey was completed by school districts early in 2018, and helps the Ministry of Education more clearly understand current and projected usage, user satisfaction, and priorities for MyEducation BC.

"We're seeing the continuation of several trends that were reported in 2016/17, such as a focus on data, analytics, and interfacing with other systems," says Andrew Macauley, a director with the Ministry's MyEducation BC team. "Last year districts predicted a decrease in full-time support staff in 2017/18, and we're seeing that confirmed in this year's results."

> *"It's good to see that our efforts and enhancements to MyEducation BC's services are reflected in improved satisfaction levels."*

School districts report 10 per cent less full time support resources dedicated to MyEducation BC in 2017/18 from the previous school year, and anticipate a further reduction in 2018/19 of 39 per cent. Other key findings include a plateauing of the number of new users coming onto the service, an increasing use of online tools like e-training and websites, and more moderate increases in the adoption of functionality like family portals, report cards, and gradebooks.

Overall levels of satisfaction were up. Two areas, system reliability and response time, saw a slight decrease due to a connectivity issue affecting some districts at the time of reporting, but which has since been resolved. Several areas the Ministry and Fujitsu identified for improvement in 2016/17 reflect increased satisfaction levels this year, including communication, continuous entry learning, and support.

"It's good to see that our efforts and enhancements to MyEducation BC services are reflected in improved satisfaction levels," said Macauley. "We'll continue to work in the areas identified as priorities in the coming year."

A total of 50 districts completed the survey, representing 81.5 per cent of students in schools using MyEducation BC. These results were then used to estimate demand for all schools, supporting capacity planning and priority setting for the student information system.

Read the full *Business Value Framework 2017/18 Results* report here (opens PDF). ●

Collaboration key at MyEducation BC Academy

For many of the 270 attendees who took part in the 2018 MyEducation BC Academy conference May 7-8, 2018, the opportunity to connect with peers was a highlight.

"The networking was the best part of the conference," said one attendee. "The sharing is the key piece for me these days," another confirmed.

Staff from 57 public school districts, Yukon, and independent schools gathered in Richmond, BC for two days of connecting, sharing, and learning related to the MyEducation BC service. One of the key themes was data and analytics, with attendees hearing from keynotes by

Issue 7, June 2018

There were many opportunities to create connections with peers from across BC and Yukon during MyEducation BC Academy 2018.

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IBM's Anne Saftich and Microsoft's Dr. Colin Birge. District staff, Fujitsu, and Ministry of Education staff shared their knowledge and took part in discussions in more than 30 sessions and workshops.
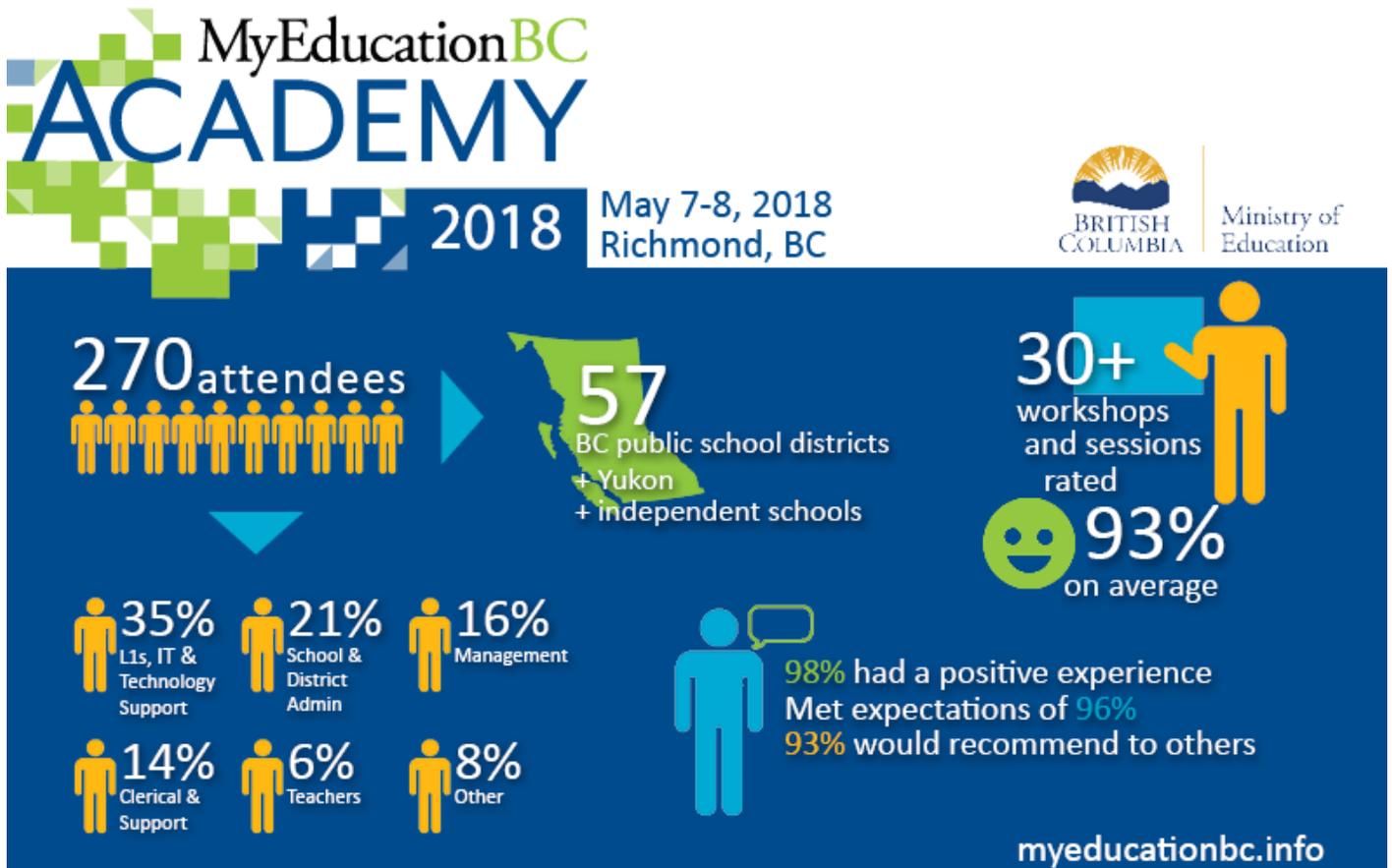
One attendee commented, "I've always enjoyed attending the MyEducation BC conferences, but this one was the best one yet."

MyEducation BC Academy is organized by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Common Student Information Systems Consortium (CSISC).

Planning has already begun for the 2019 MyEducation BC Academy, which will be held in Kelowna, BC on April 25-26, 2019. More information will become available in early 2019.●

MyEducationBC ACADEMY 2018
May 7-8, 2018
Richmond, BC

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Education

270 attendees

57 BC public school districts + Yukon + independent schools

30+ workshops and sessions rated **93%** on average

35% L1s, IT & Technology Support

21% School & District Admin

16% Management

14% Clerical & Support

6% Teachers

8% Other

98% had a positive experience
Met expectations of 96%
93% would recommend to others

myeducationbc.info

Looking for Academy presentations or the latest event news?

Many presentations from 2018 and previous years are available for viewing and download within MyEducation BC on the "MyEd Academy" page. Log in and go to Pages > Academic > MyEd Academy. Check back regularly starting in January for the latest news and information about the event!

Reflecting on 2017/18

By Quirina Gamblen, Chair, Service Management Council

This spring I attended the 2018 CUE conference with a group of colleagues, where we had an opportunity to connect with educators from across North America. It is interesting to learn about initiatives that are taking place in other jurisdictions and to reflect on how far we as a province have come in the implementation of our common student information service, as well as in areas of assessment, communicating student learning, and data analytics. Many jurisdictions are interested in our story and our approach to implementation with governance structures, project teams, working groups, collaborative learning networks, and bi-annual conferences.

As another school year draws to a close, it is important to reflect on the successful projects completed this year and to note the positive contributions of districts, the Ministry of Education, and Fujitsu. Together we made significant progress toward achieving our goal of "one student, one record," and of developing a system that delivers functionality that supports education in BC.

Without the work and the dedication of our SMC and SMC Executive, our standing committees—Operations and Standards, Software Enhancement, Data Integration and Student Learning—Level 1 support teams, project teams, and provincial colleagues and partners working together to improve functionality and the user experience, this project would not be as successful. Thank you all for your contributions and your willingness to overcome constraints and challenges to initiate new opportunities.

The work that Ray and the CSISC conference planning team and Melanie and the Ministry team do for the continued development of the fall conference and the spring Academy provide valuable opportunities to network, share, and learn together. Thank you—these events get better every year!

This year Saskatchewan began work with Fujitsu on implementation of a common student information service in their province in September. Representatives from their ministry and school divisions attended the spring Academy and were impressed by the wealth of resources and experience shared with them. As we go forward, we look forward to opportunities to extend our networking experiences across provinces.

Next year we face new challenges. We have an ambitious plan for change that includes software enhancements, solutions for data integration and access, inclusive education and, hopefully, a redesigned standards-based gradebook!

For now I hope you are able to spend time with family and friends over the summer holidays; I wish you safe and happy travels. To those who are retiring or moving on to new opportunities, thank you for your contributions to this work and best wishes for the next steps of your journey.

Thank you all for your knowledge, experience, energy, time, and commitment.●

2017/18 Accomplishments

- Class size and composition:
  - New class size and GDE extracts, compliance report, and compliance calculation spreadsheet
  - Enrolment by designation in the scheduling workspace
- Simplified Inclusive Education Plan
- Gender removed from four BC class list reports
- New graduation program:
  - Numeracy assessment enabled
  - Enterprise course catalogue updated
  - DVR, PSR, School Transcript revisions
- Software Enhancment/SMC change requests:
  - Automated ELL alert
  - Automatic email of login info for student accounts
  - Choose enterprise or district role for new parent accounts
  - New course request count verification report
- "Active-no primary" excluded from district enrolment report
- School department name available in course tally report
- Populate PSR grade at EOYR
- Mass assign fees function
- Next school can assign next year's homeroom
- Course nick names in create assignment pick list
- Class total enrolment displayed in scheduling workspace
- Security role expiry and enrolment search designs
- Page-based student portfolio feasibility study
- K-9 report on student learning and K-9 rubrics
- Class-based attendance:
  - Multi-add and four reports
  - Refine multi-add functionality and complete class-based reports
- Standards Manual updated to web-based platform
- Aspen release 5.8

SMC 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 provide guidance and input on the evolution of MyEducation BC. Brief updates from the SMC's committees 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(s)

Data Integration Commitee (DIC)	• Identified and received SMC Executive approval for three initiatives of focus:
	  • Develop standardized import processes and tools
	  • Improve adhoc extract capability
	  • Create data integration framework
	• Working with Ministry and Fujitsu team to establish an import process for loading local assessments, targeting early July 2018
	• Working with Fujitsu to provide a MyEducation BC roadmap to provide clarity on data integration possibilities
		Sean Cameron

Operations & Standards Commitee (OSC)	• Reviewing use of the transfer function, and ability to schedule a future student • Worked with SEC to develop a streamlined process to deal with configuration items before next SEC cycle • Drafting a standard about the "Proof of Age" field • Standards Manual updated with search functionality • Inclusive Education checkbox on the staff record made mass updatable • ELL Alert automated • Supporting Ministry with updating graduation reports	Phil Luporini
Software Enhancement Committee (SEC)	• Five items from the 2017-18 approved enhancement list will be completed in 2018/19 • Met with Fujitsu to review 25 items approved for 2018/19, and are waiting for proposed solutions and cost estimates • Welcome aboard to Alain Pigeon and Josh Porter, who just joined the SEC!	Surinder Brar
Student Learning Committee (SLC)	• Engaging in the design process and implementation of the new standards-based gradebook • Competency-based IEP revisions with the multi-district team • Supporting Ministry with updating grad requirements • MyEdBC assessments support	Dave Sands and David Vandergugten

Contact

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