Tēnā koutou katoa

For the past 15 months education sector representatives and the Ministry of Education have been looking at ways to ensure core student information is readily available, when and where it is needed.

This project, known as the Student Information Sharing Initiative (SISI), has produced a draft report on the work to date and potential options going forward. This report is available to view [here](#).

SISI has explored a number of options for managing and sharing student data in a secure and efficient way.

The process has been highly collaborative, with representatives from the sector feeding into the draft documents and vision, taking ownership of the initiative and guiding its outcome. Appendix A of the report outlines the engagement process.

Research by the SISI team and sector feedback has shown that a technological solution alone will not will not solve all the problems associated with sharing student data. Teachers and school leaders need support to get maximum benefit from their Student Management Systems and effectively manage student data.

**High-level Summary of the Report**

SISI seeks to:

**Support Student Achievement and Engagement**
Improving Teacher, Student and Caregiver/Whānau student information will help lift student achievement and support teaching and learning.

**Ensure Security of Data**
Research has shown that student information is transferred through a myriad of methods. Learners and their stakeholders must have certainty that their information is only accessible by authorised parties.

**Create a Streamlined Administrative Environment**
A new approach to the management of student information could help school streamline their systems and reduce the administrative workload on teachers and staff.

Section 6 of the report describes in more detail the drivers for change (pages 8-9).
Options Considered and Conclusions

SISI considered three options to improve the quality, access and portability of core student data. They were:

1. Status quo - multiple SMSs
2. One SMS product for all schools
3. An integrated solution retaining multiple SMSs.

The first option is the current model and does not address the current difficulties of effectively sharing data across the sector.

Option two, building one SMS for use by all schools around the country, would take a long time to develop and might not meet the differing needs of large and small schools. More about these considerations is discussed in Section 7 of the report.

Option three is the recommended option in the report. This option proposes that SMS providers integrate with a common set of data standards, known as the System Interoperability Framework (SIF), and that student information is stored securely in a central repository. This model is currently used in Australia and the UK, and allows schools to continue to choose the SMS provider who offers a product that best meets their particular needs.

This proposed solution will give:

- students access to the information they need throughout their education journey;
- schools and caregivers access to information they need to improve student achievement.

More information about this proposal is in section 10 of the report, pages 12-16.

Feedback

We would like your feedback on the Student Information Sharing Initiative report. It is important that the wider schooling sector has input into these proposed changes. In particular, please consider and give us your feedback on:

- The vision for SISI, section 3 (page 7).
- The options examined in section 7 (pages 10-11).
- The solution and path forward proposed, in section 10 (pages 12-16)

Feedback can be directed to [delta.info@education.govt.nz](mailto:delta.info@education.govt.nz), or you can take an ongoing role in steering SISI by emailing your contact details to the same email address, and asking to join our Loomio discussion group.