The SMS Initiative – Update, February 2016

Introducing the Student Information Sharing Initiative

"The SMS Initiative" has been renamed to "the Student Information Sharing Initiative (SISI)". This reflects that the focus of the project is to ensure core student information is readily available, when and where it is needed, by those authorised to access it.

Informing Others About SISI

It is important to get information about SISI into the public domain. Please make the Ministry aware of any meetings which members of the SISI team could attend to speak about the project by emailing delta.info@education.govt.nz.

Meeting the School User Community

In the coming month business analysts will be visiting some schools around the country to finalise the team’s view of the current state of the operating model(s) schools are using, and the issues that schools are facing with regard to student information sharing.

Good Practice Workshops

The Connected Learning Advisory (CLA) will be offering SMS ‘Good Practice’ workshops in Term 2. Further information about this will be circulated in the next SISI monthly update.

Draft Roadmap and Feedback

A set of proposals (a draft ‘roadmap’ of the way forward) have been compiled that reflect feedback from the two SMS workshops were held in 2015 and the input from the online sector-led discussion group.

The Ministry is seeking feedback on these proposals from the wider sector, to know if you think it is on the right track.

Please submit your feedback by 31 March 2016. You can email delta.info@education.govt.nz to give your feedback, or post on the Loomio group.

The Ministry will collate the feedback received and post changes to the draft proposals online. It will take the revised proposals out on the road for discussion, and will provide updates on progress in March, April, May and June. By June it is hoped to have a clear programme of work to take the initiative forward.
Draft Proposals for the SISI ‘Roadmap’

It is proposed that there should be three projects:

**Project 1 - Student Information Sharing Initiative (SISI),** which has three workstreams: improving sector SMS capability; developing a student information sharing service; forming a school sector standards governance group.

a) *Improve sector capability:* Some of the problems with student data arise because data has not been well managed at schools level. This workstream would provide support programmes aimed at improving the use of SMS within schools.

**Purpose:**
- To provide assistance to schools to effectively use their SMS functionality. This would include the implementation of good practice; and training and ongoing support to improve accuracy and consistency of data held by schools.
- To increase the knowledge within schools of how to effectively use data once it is captured.

b) *Develop a Student Information Sharing Service:* The workstream would investigate and if necessary develop technical solutions to enable student information to be available when it is needed by whoever is authorised to use it.

**Purpose:**
- To define system interoperability information/data standards & oversee the vendors adoption of the standards
- To develop any supporting information technology that is needed to facilitate the sharing of information, which overtime would be extended to deliver on Projects 2 and 3. This may include a central repository if required
- To replace the current Ministry Student Record Transfer service.

c) *Establish a schooling sector standards governance group:* This workstream would establish a group to provide governance around standards, both at a data and good practice level within schools. The group would be made up of representatives from the schooling sector along with other stakeholders.

**Purpose:**
- To provide advice and endorsement to the project regarding the ongoing roadmap for SISI; data interoperability and data standards; sector requirements; and the implementation of good practice (standards) in schools relating to the use of SMS

**Project 2 - Streamline Enrolment**

The aim of this project would be to make the student enrolment and Ministry reporting processes simpler and more streamlined.

**Project 3 – Streamline Ministry SMS reporting**

The aim of this project would be to streamline the Ministry reporting process for schools in relation to NCEA, NAG2A, and Attendance.

- Please email your feedback by 31 March 2016 to delta.info@education.govt.nz.