

Web Environment Strategy Edmonton Catholic Schools

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Executive Summary

Edmonton Catholic Schools, initiated and supported by Educational & Administrative Technology Services (EATS), is increasing its use of the WEB (html) environment to provide and receive information from all the members in its family. This strategy will include teachers, students, partners, schools and central administration. To grow this environment we need to vision and develop an infrastructure that will expanding with district needs.

The web holds great potential for our district and teaching and learning. It has the ability to increase the accessibility of information to our users not only in volume but in a 24 hour, 7day environment. It will allow us to tap into the huge recourse of computers not owned by the district but owned by the individuals connected to the district. Our web environment will contain information that is both available to the general public and available to specific groups in a password secured environment. It will have applications and templates that users will use to meet their needs. There will be the ability to create and administrate surveys that will provide information to the district. Our vision is immense with great potential. We need to ensure that this environment is developed with planning and vision at the early stages to prevent re-engineering later or the lack realized potential.

ECS has major constituents that it needs to serve to meet its vision of teaching and learning. These are

- Students
- Parents
- Employees
- The general public, and
- Business partners that we deal with.

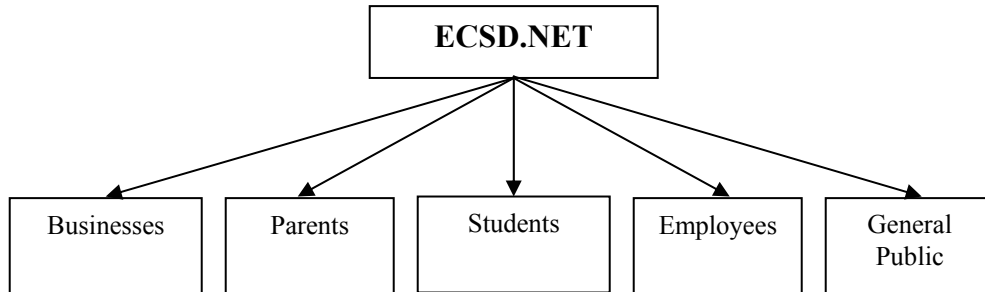
Through our web environment strategy we have the potential to increase our interaction, communication and benefit with these groups.

Our web strategy does not have a end goal but is a work in progress that will grow and evolve as the need and ideas of the users grow. We have begun the process with existing resources and have already made positive strides. We will continue to grow both in functionality and resources required. It will be important to maintain standards and central management of the environment to ensure the greatest potential of the energies expended in developing the web environment.

Constituents Served

Our web presence will continue to grow and evolve. We have many groups that have the opportunity to served with our web strategy. ECSD.net will be the tool we use to provide service to the various ‘families’ that we are in association with. These include:

- Students the we provide instruction to
- Parents and guardians that help us provide education to our students
- Employees that work to actualize our ECS Vision.
- Businesses that we partner with to provide services
- The general public with whom we share our vision.

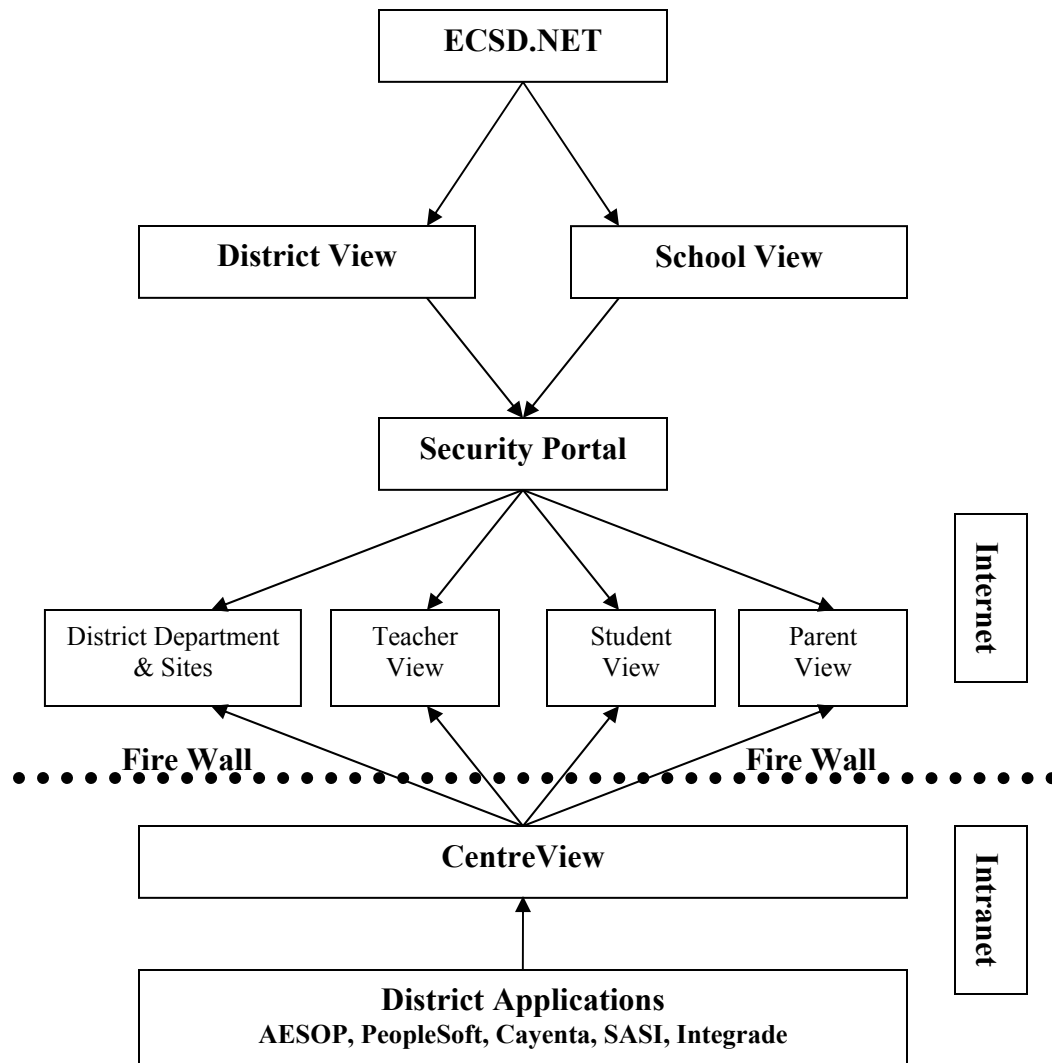


These groups form the major constitutes that we serve. Some of the services that we will be providing are:

- Creating web space for students enabling them to post their work in a secure environment for themselves, their parents and their teachers.
- Providing an opportunity for parents to view their child’s web posting. Also to receive information from the school regarding calendar of events, student report cards, attendance and teacher comments.
- Employees will be able to manage their work attendance and view their personal information along with viewing and applying for potential job opportunities.
- Through our business partners we will be able to purchase items online, submit purchase and work requisitions.
- The general public will be able to learn about our district and our mission.
- Site financial planning.

Vision

Edmonton Catholic Schools will develop a web environment that has a mix in information that is accessible by all or by few depending upon their password and identification rights. This environment will contain information in both static and dynamic formats. It will also allow users to work in the environment to produce reports of conduct business transactions.



To accomplish this there will be three distinct but integrated components. One part of the environment will be accessible by the general public. Another component will only be accessible through a secure portal that will grant access to specific areas based upon user id and password. The third component resides behind a firewall and is only accessible from computers attached to the Edmonton Catholic Schools network.

Focus Areas

Although ECSD.net will be fully integrated and be one web site there will be areas of focus that will contain information specific to that interest group. Some of these areas will be viewable by all while other sections will be controlled by user id and passwords and will only be viewed by individuals with specific rights. The focus areas are:

- Centre View
- District View
- School View
- Teacher View

- Student View, and
- Parent View.

Centre View

Centre View will be a secure read/write environment that will act as the interconnecting hub between district applications and the web. We will use centre view to:

- Generate and view reports
- Launch web applications for user productivity
- Integration of data from district applications

Centre View will become the 'work horse' that interrelates with all other sections of the web to each other and to district applications.

District View

District View will be the where district departments and sites will publish public relations information about themselves in a public environment. In a secure environment, departments will conduct e-business along with providing information and resources for ECS staff. Some functions will include:

- Information for the general public
- Department profiles
- AESOP
- Personnel Self Serve information
- E-Commerce (purchasing on line, work orders)
- Financial planning
- Surveys
- Edulink

School View

School View will be a public environment that will provide information to the general public about the school. Some items contained in the school view could be:

- Newsletters
- Information about the schools
- Calendar of events

Each school will have its own web site section that can and will stand alone except for navigation links. They will all be connected through district view. We will provide training, pre-developed templates and standards that will encourage a consistent look but allow each school to express its personality.

Teacher View

Teacher View will be a secure read/write area that will contain professional information to aid teachers with the teaching and learning process. Teachers will also have access to web applications to generate reports and other documents. Some the functions accessible in this area will be:

- Generating report cards
- Publishing student homework
- Publishing classroom calendar of events
- Curriculum information
- Generating assessment comments to students
- Accessing a lesson plan generator (Class Server)
- Accessing online resources

Teacher View will become an effective tool that teachers will use to acquire information, generate reports, plan and provide information to parents and students. This area will expand and will produce increased potential to teaching and learning as the web skill of teachers increase.

Student View

Student View will be a secure read/write area that will allow the student to develop and publish their work along with view assessment comments from their teachers. The student's parents will also have access to this site. Some functions of this area will be:

- Viewing person report card
- Developing a personal portfolio
- View assessment comments
- Online learning opportunities

This area has huge potential for teaching and learning. Along with the Parent View it will increase the ongoing communication between the teacher, student and parents. A new potential of this site is that it will provide a vehicle for the learning environment to exploit the huge untapped resource of computer technology that resides at home. Through this web environment students will be able to work effectively on their school assignments on their home computers. This environment solves the issue of how to transfer student work from the school to the home and back to the school.

Parent View

Parent view will provide a secure area available for parents to view information regarding their child's learning. This will be a view only area expect for the parents ability to email teachers and school administrators and complete survey forms. Some information included in this area will be:

- Current attendance reports
- Student report cards
- Teacher comments
- Class calendar of events
- Email to teachers and school administration
- Completing survey forms

This area has the potential to not only increase the communication between the school and parent but also provide a venue for current, ongoing communication.

Resource Needs

The ECS web environment strategy is a long term strategy with a long term growth strategy. Upon completion we will provide web and linked work spaces for everyone associated with Edmonton Catholic Schools to communicate with each other in a dynamic environment. The implications of this are that we will provide, develop and manage upwards of 40 000 web sites. Many of these will either view results or use applications we have developed. We predict over 250,000 'hits' per month to our web environment within three years. This is a huge task with huge benefits and we need to begin the journey with a long term view and strategy.

Educational and Administrative Technology Services has already begun the journey of building our web environment strategy.

- The public portion of district view and many of the department views are already published
- Centre view is an effective tool used by administrators
- Student view has had successful pilots
- Teacher view and parent view will be piloted during the 2002-2003 school year
- Human Resource Services is already using a secure web environment for staff absence and job applying
- EATS has developed a template for school web sites and is training upon request

Many ideas have begun and are being supported by EATS. Much of the hardware is in place and EATS is making a commitment to training its technical staff in the intricacies of the web. We intend to ensure that Edmonton Catholic School is a leader in web knowledge and all the benefits it can bring to teaching and learning. We have started and will continue to grow at a managed rate. We don't expect to see a large

initial infusion of resources into this area but we do see a steady growth both in hardware and human resources. The human resources will take the form of training and additional staff to develop and manage the environment. This will bring new additional functionality to Edmonton Catholic School and will replace very little if any of the existing resource needs.

Development Strategy

The ECS web environment is a 'work in progress' that will grow and evolve in direct relation to the energy and collective creativity of the Edmonton Catholic School family. We need to be open to ideas that come forward by our users.

To take advantage of the web potential and the suggestions of our users we need to develop and maintain a flexible, growing hardware interface and a highly skilled workforce. We also need to establish standards and strategies regarding how various components of the web environment interact with each other. We also need to develop and strive toward a corporate look and feel to all our web components. This will require central management of the vision. EATS and Edmonton Catholic Schools have begun the journey and look forward to the positive benefits for teaching and learning.