Main Areas of Focus

• EMIS – OPENSIS

• Online Learning – Google Classrooms

• Online Assessments – Tangerine and Forms

• Virtual Coaching/Virtual Centers
1. ICT in Education - EMIS

- Our OPENSIS is a full featured school information system. Its exceptional feature is the flexibility of its gradebook system and how it supports any combination of grading systems used by schools.
openSIS Features

» Included Functionalities
  • Demographics
  • Scheduling
  • Report Cards
  • Transcripts
  • Discipline
  • Parent Portal
  • Student Billing
  • Eligibility Tracker
  • Fully Customizable Report Writer
  • Custom Fields

» Included Functionalities
  • Contact Information
  • Gradebook
  • Health Records
  • Attendance
  • Email Messaging
  • State Reporting
  • School Calendars
  • Google Maps Integration
  • Library Management
  • LMS Integration

Custom Offering: Online application processing, Active Directory/LDAP integration, limited special education functionality
OPENSIS - Uses/Benefits

• Collection and aggregation of data and generation of reports from schools. Eg. student information, staff information, attendance, grades discipline etc.
  – Generate unique Id and email address for all teachers, students and MoE staff
  – Made it easy for online school to be implemented during the pandemic
  – Pre-generate list of students for national assessment
  – helps with planning all logistics related with national school programmes such as national assessment, devices/equipment distribution etc
During the pandemic it has allowed Dominica to reduce the printing of report cards by over 95% as majority of students and parents access their reports online.

It has played a major role in contact tracing of students and parents.
OPENSIS – The Future

• System is expandable and already has a module that integrates with our online learning platform (Google Classroom).

• Areas for Improvement.
  – More national level reporting on the front end (This was once integrated with a data warehouse but has to be rebuilt)
  – The MoE building a culture of effective data collection, harmonization and reporting between all its stakeholders
2. Online Education

• Owing to the Covid-19 Pandemic in March 2020, Dominica immediately migrated to online learning as a means to continue the education of our students.

• Google Classroom Suite—asynchronous learning.

• Google meet & ZOOM - synchronous/live sessions
Online Education - Training

• Teachers were trained in the use of Google classrooms and its many extensions.

• 2 phases –
  (i) trained master teachers;
  (ii) trained every teacher in every district (on a district level)
Online Education – Google Extensions

- Mote (GE)
- Edu-Pal (GE)
- Screen Castify (GE)
- Jamboard (Google App)
- Bitmoji (GE)
- Kami (GE)
- Drift Video (GE)
- Edpuzzle (GE)
- Quizlet (S)
- Kahoot (S)
- Bloomz (Phone App)
- Book Creator (Site)
- Splash Learn (Site)
- Google sites (Google App)
- Quizizz (S)
- Liveworksheets (S)
- Flipgrid
- InsertLearning (GE) (S)
- Wakelet (S)
- Sli.do
- Bookwidgets
- Ck-12
- Classcraft
- Awesome screenshot and screen recorder
- Wevideo
- Storybird
- whiteboardchat.com
Online Education - Successes

- 100% of teachers exposed to online learning Training.
- Every school has a lead ICT teacher leading the process of ICT in Education adoption
- 100% of teachers fully engaged in online education.
- Over 5000 google classrooms created for teaching.
Online Education - Successes

- 15 Master teachers trained in blended learning under OECS/World Bank project to facilitate national blended learning training workshops.

- Online learning training conducted by IT for Dominica in several critical areas.

- Blended learning training also conducted under Peace Corp project in 2021 at eight (8) schools.
Online Education - Successes

• Education officers directly involved in online supervision and support to teachers and students

• 100% of students at the primary and secondary levels have access to internet (at home or at school)

• Weekly monitoring/reporting of students online attendance at school level to ensure quick interventions and support.
Online Education - Successes

- Students from level k to 5th form are able to use both synchronous and asynchronous platforms with assistance from teachers and parents to attend classes.

- We have made all of our curriculum guides accessible both in the MoE Google Classroom for teachers and on the Ministry of Education’s Website.
Online Education – Areas for improvement

- Improved student and parent engagement on asynchronous platforms
- Additional training opportunities for all teachers.
- Better collaboration among teachers
Online Education – The Future

• Cross school and cross district collaboration for teaching using online platforms.

• All teaching staff at least 80% to 100% proficient in blended learning/ online teaching.
Traditionally, National Assessments at the grade 2 and 4 levels are administered using paper and pencil format. Given the diagnostic nature of the assessments it usually extends to over 2 weeks of administration.
Online Education – Assessments

• In 2021, the Curriculum, Measurement and Evaluation piloted online assessments using Google Forms and Tangerine.

• Tangerine is a web-based electronic data collection software designed for use on mobile computers, including netbooks, tablet computers and smartphones.
Online Education – Assessments

• Students took the assessments under the supervision of their teachers using existing Google classroom and GoogleMeet.

• Teachers were trained to administer the Oral reading assessments using Tangerine

• For both assessment Platforms data was collected in real-time.
Online Education – Assessment successes

• Vast reduction in time taken to conduct the assessments
• Data available in real time
• Errors are quickly detected and can be rectified immediately
• More detailed results produced for diagnostic purposes
Online Education – Assessment Challenges

• Lack of internet access in 4 communities prevented the assessment of these students

• In some cases (early stages) parents were seen assisting students (minimal)

• More training required for teachers and principals in interpreting the results which are now much more detailed.
Online Education – Assessment - Future

• Owing to the relative success of the pilot for diagnostic purposes, the MoE will pilot online assessment in high stakes testing such as the Grade 6 National Assessments.

• Schools to be trained further in use of online assessments for classroom assessments.
Online Education – Virtual Coaching

• virtual coaching is an in-person coaching session where officers and a teacher have a conversation through a web-based video chat. The officer uses a Bluetooth earpiece to communicate with the teacher while the teacher is teaching in real time.
Online Education – Virtual Coaching

• This was piloted during a USAID/OECS Early Learners’ Programme and we continue to use it with some of our new teachers.

• This coaching requires that a computer with wide angle webcam be setup in a classroom using GoogleMeet or Skype.
Online Education – Virtual Coaching

• In addition, through funding from the GPE through the OECS commission, we have set up 4 virtual coaching centers at 4 of our schools. These will be used for district virtual meetings and coaching as necessary. Schools are also expected to use these in the teaching/learning process.
Online Education – Virtual Coaching

• Further, to target the TVET Skills, the MoE has partnered with the Rotary Club of Dominica to setup the Dominica Smart Distance Learning Center. This has 2 branches (Dominica State College and the Portsmouth Secondary School).
Online Education – Virtual Coaching - Future

• Officers trained in virtual coaching to reach more teachers and provide the necessary support when travel in hindered or limited.

• More virtual centers set up at more schools and extended to the secondary schools.
Access/Equity

• The Government of Dominica has made available over 7,000 tablets to students.

• This is in addition to over 3,900 tablets provided by the OECS commission under an Accelerated Recovery Programme

• NTRC has provided internet access to low income families at a vastly reduced rate
Thank you