



ICT IN EDUCATION - A CARIBBEAN FORUM

Dominica

***ICT In Education – Status, Successes and
Challenges***

Main Areas of Focus

- **EMIS – OPENSIS**
- **Online Learning – Google Classrooms**
- **Online Assessments – Tangerine and Forms**
- **Virtual Coaching/Virtual Centers**

1. ICT in Education - EMIS



Student Information System

- 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

OPENSIS - Uses/Benefits

- 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)
- Quiziz (S)
- Liveworksheets (S)
- Flipgrid
- InsertLearning (GE) (S)
- Wakelet (S)
- Sli.do
- Bookwidgets
- Ck-12
- Classcraft
- Awesome screenshot and screen recorder
- Wevideo
- Storybird
- whiteboardchat.com

To-do To review Calendar





CMEU Workshops
Primary and Secondary






MoE Classroom for T
Curriculum, Learning Support, Admini...






National Assessment
Primary Level








MoE Classroom Curri...
MoE Science Office







MoE Classroom Curri...
MoE Language Art Office







MoE Classroom Curri...
MoE Social Science Office







MoE Classroom Curri...
Moe HFLE Office







MoE Classroom Curri...
MoE Mathematics Office



MoE Classroom -Cur...
MoE TVET Office



MJPS - Comprehensi...
Miss Simon



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.

Online Education – Assessments

- 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 is 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



Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica

Thank you

