

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 14, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: SmartNet

ORIGINATOR: A. Habinski, Executive Director, School and District Services

RESOURCE  
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### INFORMATION

SmartNet is a web-based interactive tool designed by Information Technology Services (ITS) to assist EPS staff with assessing, enhancing and tracking their technology skills. The online tool is one of a series of resources developed through the Technology Skills Project.

The online application assists users to assess their current technology skills in common areas such as word processing, email, computer operations and file management. Additionally, SmartNet addresses specific technology skills for each of four learning groups, including:

Teachers:

- Managing the student information system
- Creating materials and presentations to enhance learning
- Meeting ICT outcomes

Administrative Assistants:

- Managing financial and student information systems
- Communicating with the school community

Principals:

- Providing leadership and support to the school community in the use of technology
- Using information and communication systems effectively
- Planning for the implementation of the ICT curriculum

Custodians:

- Managing service requests using STARS
- Tracking school maintenance and rental leasing information
- Managing inventory, HVAC, security, alarm systems and utilities

Upon completion of the skill assessment, SmartNet creates a customized training plan for each user. The training plan may consist of online tutorials as well as inservices and courses offered through Metro College, Consulting Services, ITS and NAIT. Advanced users can search SmartNet by entering a keyword into the system and having the search engine locate applicable resources for specific skill areas.

One of the key features of SmartNet is its ability to track the progress of each user over time. This feature allows staff to easily incorporate new technology skills into their professional growth plans. Upon acquiring additional technology skills, users simply login and update their profile. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 438 EPS staff have logged into the SmartNet site (<https://smartnet.epsb.ca/>) and over 200 have created training plans.

District Technology is actively seeking partners to further the development of SmartNet. In September 2002, Edmonton Public Schools entered into a one year agreement with Sturgeon School Division #24 to provide access and support in the use of the application. Additionally, District Technology is engaged in licensing discussions with other Alberta school boards for the use of SmartNet.

SmartNet's design and structure will enable it to be quickly adapted to support current and future district initiatives. FocusPlus, a derivative of the SmartNet application, is in the development phase and is being designed to support schools in their 'Focus Work'.

Edmonton Public Schools was recognized with an award at the 2002 Alberta e-Business Leadership Awards for SmartNet. The Alberta E-Business Leadership Awards honours those companies, not-for-profit groups, educational institutions and government departments which have demonstrated leadership and success in electronic commerce, learning, community support and other innovative ways of using the Internet. Other award winners included Epcor, City of Airdrie, Athabasca University and Travel Alberta.

A brief demonstration of the SmartNet application will follow the introduction of the report.

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