

ERS Technology Update 09

for developers of Student Management Systems

Introduction

This document informs vendors of student management software systems (SMS) of upcoming changes to the Electronic Receiving System (ERS), to enable them to incorporate those changes into their maintenance programme.

Skill Enhancement web services implemented

The Skill Enhancement XML web services interface was released to production on 4 February 2008. This change to ERS is backward-compatible with existing SMS integrations and provides SMS vendors with the option to enhance their SMS integration to support Skill Enhancement programmes.

The two Skill Enhancement programmes (Rangatahi Māia and Tupulaga Le Lumana'i) target learners of Māori or Pacific Island descent with the aim of them gaining National Qualifications Framework (NQF) qualifications at level 3 and above.

Unlike Training Opportunities and Youth Training, Skill Enhancement programmes are of “fixed” placement style (that is, average contracted places and maximum places are one and the same). The intention is that learners complete a full year programme.

Please note the [Targeted Training Funding Handbook](#) provides detailed understanding of how the funds work and consequently the business rules that should be applied. These guidelines are updated annually and should be the definitive reference for TEOs and vendors.

The new Skill Enhancement interface consists of an additional XML enrolment transaction type that shares a common design with the Training Opportunities and Youth Training enrolment transactions. However, Skill Enhancement business rules are generally simpler. In particular:

- The only eligibility criteria are ethnicity (Māori or Pacific Island descent), citizenship, and residency requirements.
- Travel reimbursement does not apply.

The complementary Skill Enhancement web forms were released to TEOs in October 2007. This web services release provides the *option* for SMS vendors and TEOs to take advantage of integration, reducing manual data entry workload for TEO staff.

Minor ERS problem resolved through the 4th February release

A minor functional problem has been resolved in conjunction with the 4th February release as follows:

Key	Problem Resolved
ERSII-401	Enrolments and amendment transactions allowed empty address fields to be submitted. The fields AddressLine1 and TownCityName have been modified to require a minimum of one character. This will not necessarily prevent poor address data but <i>will</i> screen out situations where no address data has been provided.

Design documentation

The ERS developer web page has been updated with details of the new Skill Enhancement web services interface:

- The [developer web page](#) has also been rearranged to make it more readable.
- The “ERS Web Services User Guide Version 1.4” has been renamed to “ERS-web-service-interface-developer-guide-2_0.doc” to better reflect its purpose. This document has been extensively updated. In particular, details of XML schema files have been removed in favour of separate PDF files detailing each of the XML schema definitions. This simplifies the developer guide while providing accurate, detailed schema documentation that would be unwieldy within the developer guide document.
- The XML schema files have all been updated to version 2.0, even if they have not changed. Detailed XML documentation has been generated for each schema file and can be accessed individually via links on the developer web page and are included in the “ers-schema-20.zip” file.
- The error codes and business rules documents are still being updated to make sure they are up- to- date with current ERS operation.

ERS eligibility codes

In issue 7 of ERS Technology Update (6 December 2006), we advised of a change to eligibility codes as follows:

The “yte” and “tops” schema have been modified to reflect the new eligibility rules. The “C39” and “C40” values have been removed and replaced with “C80” and “C81”.

In fact, the C39 and C40 eligibility codes were retained for backward compatibility, allowing vendors to choose a subsequent time to migrate from the old codes to the new C80 and C81 codes. No time limit was placed on this migration. Please note the new Skill Enhancement schema also allows C39 and C40 codes, to keep the three enrolment schemas as standardised as possible.

Now that twelve months have passed, we hope that all vendors are using the C80 and C81 eligibility codes, and we can disable the C39 and C40 codes. If this isn't so, please advise the [TEC Help Desk](#) when you expect to remove C39 and C40 codes from your system. We will use this feedback to schedule the removal of the invalid codes. In the absence of feedback, the codes will be removed in the next ERS maintenance release yet to be scheduled.

Outage notifications

The [TEC Help Desk](#) emails outage notifications to vendors. Please make sure you inform your clients when outages are planned.

Contact details

Please notify the [TEC Help Desk](#) if any of your contact details have changed.