

Student Management Systems newsletter article

An article about Student Management Systems in the 2/2006 issue of the NASDAP newsletter contains significant factual inaccuracies. The article contained opinions and information that were interpreted by executive members but purported to be the advice of the Ministry of Education.

This Ministry's advice is significantly different from that in the newsletter. NASDAP unreservedly apologises for the errors printed in the newsletter and for any harm done to individual SMS vendors.

All members please note the following corrected details:

The Ministry of Education has never advised against web based systems. The Ministry has accredited both web based and locally installed systems and continues to recommend them both. Information about the pros and cons of each type of solution is available from the Ministry.

There is a suggestion in the article that KAMAR has a ceiling on how many schools they can accept. The Ministry works closely with all vendors to ensure they are adequately servicing all schools but does not seek to restrict any accredited business.

There is a suggestion that Student Manager is not easy to use. Many schools are using Student Manager and are very happy with the functionality and usability provided by that system. The system passed the usability testing in the SMS accreditation process. Schools should refer to the accreditation results published on the Ministry's website for a more informed comparison of the usability ratings of each accredited system.

There is conjecture that Integris is pulling out of the market. Integris is the only system to have been accredited twice and has worked closely with the Ministry and with schools to build strong ongoing relationships. Integris have a firm commitment to the New Zealand marketplace and this conjecture is untrue.

The Ministry provides extensive information about the process of choosing an SMS. It also employs two principals who are tasked with providing detailed information and feedback to schools about the system that would best meet their needs.

For further information about Student Management Systems please visit www.minedu.govt.nz/goto/sms or call 04 463 7666.

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