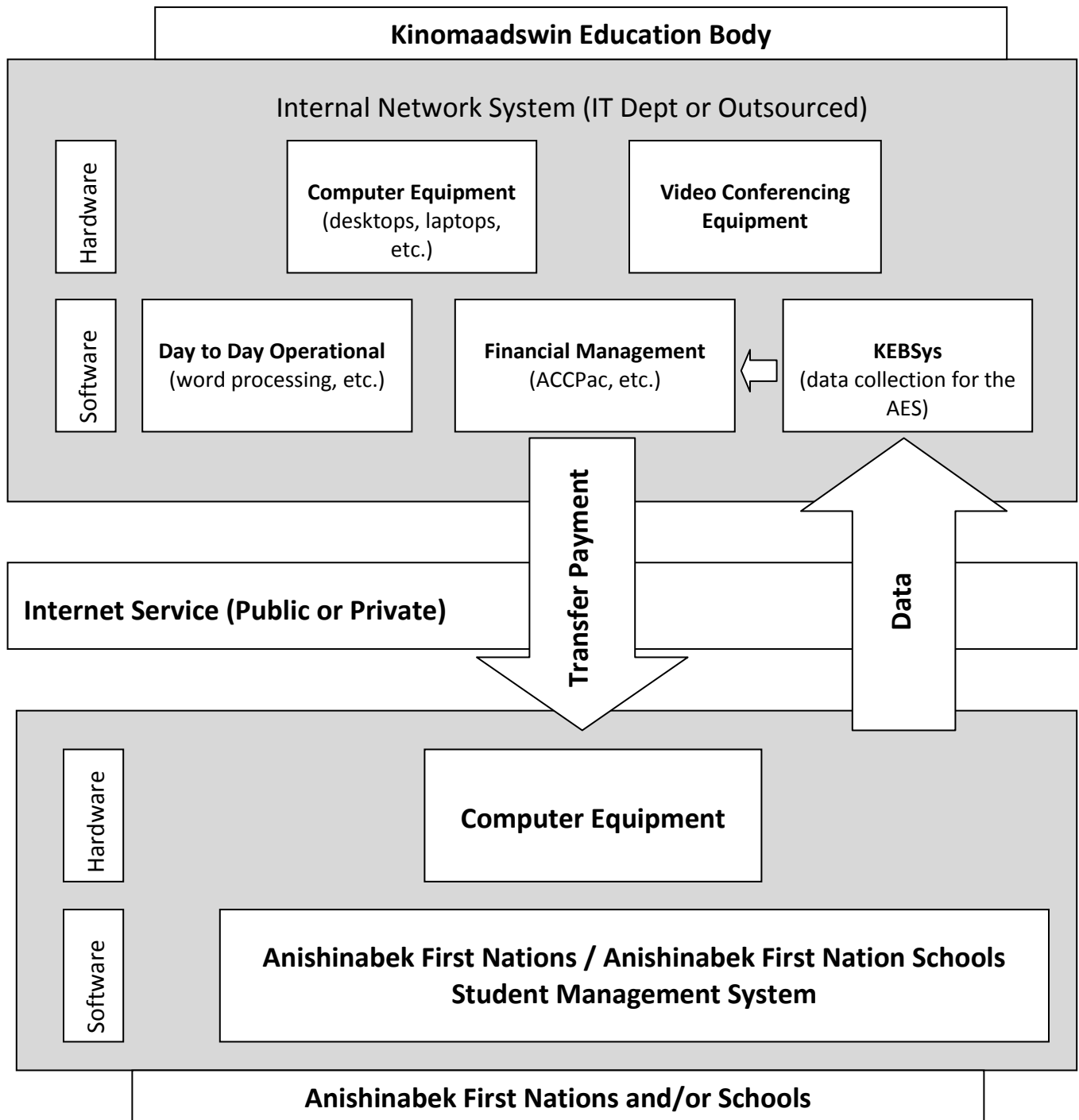


**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM
REQUIRED FOR THE ANISHINABEK EDUCATION SYSTEM (AES)
SCHEMATIC**



COMPONENTS OF THE AES INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM

The following are the components of the information technology system needed. A strategy must be developed to ensure compatibility with each component.

1. Internal Network System (Hardware)

The internal network system would allow staff to perform such operations as file sharing, document management, file storage, remote access, etc. This system may either be housed internally or outsourced.

2. Internet Service

The type of system, private or public network, will determine the complexity of setting up such a service and staffing. It may be necessary to set up contracts with different Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

3. Student Management System (SMS)

In simple terms, the SMS would allow for data tracking of students. This data, in turn, will help to create an education system that is highly effective and responsive to the needs of the students. This data may also be used to determine transfer payments to the Anishinabek First Nation.

Some features of an SMS could include student and staff records, timetables, attendance, achievement reporting, student scheduling, regulatory reporting, special education programs, and exam scheduling.

There are a number of vendors in Ontario that offer a variety of systems (Trillium, ESys, Maplewood, Trevlac, Dadavan, etc.) Some are offered via private networks, locally owned networks, or via the Internet. The best possible system that suits the needs of the AES needs to be researched and presented. As well, this system needs to be able to feed into an all encompassing system similar to OnSIS, the Ontario equivalent.

4. KEBSys

The Ministry of Ontario uses a centralized system called OnSIS in which valuable data is stored and analyzed in order to create an effective and responsive education system for students in provincial schools. The KEB would also need such a system, although not such a huge complex system. Therefore, a custom designed system may need to be developed.

5. Financial Management Software

A financial system is needed to assist with the financial management of the KEB. It must also be compatible with the SMS because the data received may be used to determine transfer payments to the Anishinabek First Nations.

6. Day to Day Operational Software

Software will need to be purchased for the KEB to perform day to day operations such as word processing, spreadsheet applications, email, etc. Microsoft Office Professional is an example of software that would perform such applications.

7. Computer Equipment, etc.

Computer equipment such as desktop computers, laptops, printers, scanners, etc. will need to be purchased for the KEB and an upgrading schedule must be determined. As well, depending on the computer capabilities of the current equipment in the Anishinabek First Nation schools and it's compatibility with the new SMS chosen, this computer equipment may need to be upgraded.

8. Video Conferencing Equipment

The KEB needs to be outfitted with video conferencing equipment.

CONSIDERATIONS

When developing a strategy for an information technology system for the AES, certain considerations need to be kept in mind. A schematic of the information technology components and how they need to fit together can be found in the above schematic. The considerations include:

Effective Date

At present, the effective date in which the AES must be up and running is April 1, 2013. This date may be changed, however, to a later date.

e-Learning

e-Learning is also part of information technology and should be considered when developing such a system. However, the discussion should remain broad as a consultant will be hired to research this entire system of learning in the first year of operation.

Compatibility with the Anishinabek Nation Government

This information technology system will not be a stand-alone system per se. It will be part of a larger government system once all other self-government agreements are in place. The Effective Date of the Anishinabek Nation Government is tentatively scheduled for April 1, 2014. Once this is in place, agreements in health, social development, etc. may follow. An information technology system for the AES must be compatible with one all encompassing system.

Population-Based Statistics

Transfer payments to the Participating First Nations will be based on student numbers and a percentage change of population. An SMS does not capture this type of data, therefore either it will need to be modified or an additional system will need to be developed in order to facilitate this transfer of data from Participating First Nation to the KEBSys. For example, an Excel spreadsheet with the data could be used to capture the data and then transferred to the KEBSys.

Performance Indicators

At the time of writing this proposal, the performance indicators that may need to be included in the KEBSys and/or SMS need to be determined. As it stands, the performance indicators are to be developed during Phase 3 of the Pre-Implementation Plan (dates to be determined). However, if the Pre-Implementation Plan is not complete, the Ontario system indicators will be used. Therefore, should it be determined that these will need to be adjusted in the future, the Student Management System will need to be easily customizable to incorporate these changes.

Management Information for Student Achievement (MISA)

Within the MISA, the Ontario system includes a “Data repository or data warehouse” as well as a “Decision Support System”. It is unknown at this time whether the KEBSystems will need to include such applications. The Ontario system manages approximately 2 million students while the number of Anishinabek students is approximately 5500. The MISA schematic is attached in Appendix D.

First Nations with Schools and First Nations without

Some First Nations have students that attend school off-Reserve and/or on-Reserve. Although an SMS would be used to track both type of students, the data tracked may not be the same.

Privacy

Historically, the privacy of information has been a huge concern for First Nations, more so than that of the rest of the country.

Human Resources Requirement

An organization chart of the KEB is available in draft form. It includes the staffing of a Communications and Operations Department. Once the IT requirements are determined, it may require revising in order to include the staffing needed to maintain the AES IT system.

Current Status of SMS use within our Anishinabek First Nations Schools

We have very limited knowledge regarding SMS use in our First Nation schools. We are aware that Trevlac, Trillium and Dadavan are being used. However, it will be extremely important to keep this in mind when developing or determining a data management system (KEBSystems) in which all FN schools feed data into. (We are aware that OnSIS is capable of accepting data from the different SMSs). We are also unsure of the computer equipment available within each First Nation school and its ability to run an SMS.

Internet Connectivity within our First Nations

We have limited knowledge regarding Internet connectivity within our First Nations. This will have an effect on the type of system the SMS runs on – private or public.

Funding sources to upgrade this infrastructure, should it be lacking, would be beneficial.