



## Qmlativ Launch Talking Points

The new Skyward upgrade, called Qmlativ, is one of the most exciting events in the cooperative for the last 15 years. There will be numerous questions from current customers and end-users on what this means to them in both the short and long-term. Below are key talking points and responses to common questions.

### Why the change?

While the breadth and depth of modules and functions in the existing Skyward product is unparalleled in any other SIS or ERP solutions, the architecture the product is currently built upon is no longer state-of-the-art. Today's technologies offer greater performance and flexibility. Qmlativ is built with this technology and includes the following:

- MS SQLServer database
- Easy configuration and workflow management
- More versatility to the end-user in short-cuts and favorites
- Powerful and flexible data reporting tools
- Improved system performance
- Streamlined payroll processing
- On-line professional development library

### What's being done to prepare the solution for our WA schools?

- All state reports have been prioritized and will be built into the system prior to the 2018-19 school year.
- All modules currently available in WA will be included in the Qmlativ product.
- Enhancements identified over the last 5 years will be included in the Qmlativ product.
- Data extracts for vendors have been prioritized and will be ready for the 2018-19 school year.
- WA Retirement is being developed into the Qmlativ product.
- All federal reports (e.g. ACA, CRDC) will be ready for the 2018-19 school year.

### When can customers migrate/convert and how will the order be decided?

The product is available now, but it won't be fully developed (WA feature set, state reports, etc.) until the 2018-19 school year. Due to this, WA public schools will start migrating in the 2018-19 school year. The cooperative will target 30-40 districts to migrate, and continue to add districts each year with the goal of being finished in the 2022-23 school year.

WSIPC will work with the Information Services Centers during early summer of 2017 to identify the first districts that will migrate to the new system. Preferably, these districts will be smaller in size and use both the student and finance systems.

Upgrade timeframes will depend upon availability of modules, and whether state reporting is fully developed. As usual, we will work with the Information Service Centers to migrate all district detail history.

Regional Information Service Centers have already been provided a Sandbox environment for staff to become familiar with the new system. The District Information Service Centers can expect the same by February 2017.

## Will the upgrade be as taxing as the last conversion?

No, 15 years ago WSIPC converted you from an unknown database structure to another unknown database structure. The conversion took many years and hard work by districts, ISCs and WSIPC personnel. Data mapping was challenging, as was the process of validating its accuracy. This upgrade migrates a district's data from a known database structure to another known database structure. WSIPC will make the data migration as seamless as possible.

## How much data cleanup will be required by the district before/after conversion?

The goal is to make the upgrade process as turn-key as possible. That said, there will always be cleanup of data that is necessary, and desired, to ensure data remains high quality.

## Will the current system be discontinued?

A district's current database will continue to be supported for many years following the migration. However, due to budgetary concerns (i.e. not wanting to pay for two products) WSIPC will not permit districts to access the old software beyond the 2025-26 school year. However, WSIPC will ensure compliance with all state laws for data retention. If any events change the sunset timeline of the existing solution, WSIPC would provide districts with a two-year notice before it happens.

## Will WSIPC continue to produce documentation for the current (Progress) version?

WSIPC will continue to update our documentation and guides when dictated by a change in state requirements or procedures. Otherwise, the intent is to focus on the new Qmlativ upgrade and begin preparing a support base for that system.

## Will my costs go up?

Due to its new architecture and advanced technology, the Qmlativ upgrade will cost more than the current solution. Consideration for costs are still being weighed by the WSIPC Board. If a fee increase is necessary for the Skyward upgrade, the district would not see the increase until the 2018-19 school year.

## What hosting solutions are being considered?

WSIPC runs an award winning cloud-based hosting environment on premise at WSIPC. This solution has been in place for the last 6 years and has served the cooperative well in terms of performance and costs. As in all services, we are always investigating ways to do things better and/or with less expense. To that end, WSIPC is evaluating the hosting services offered by Amazon and Microsoft. The benefits being:

- Ease of system management.
- Pooling/sharing of resources.
- Disaster recovery and High Availability out of the box. (Database is automatically replicated in real time. If one database goes down, you're automatically switched to the other database with no impact.)

## Where can I get additional information?

Communications (email or newsletter) regarding the upgrade process will be distributed periodically. As well, ongoing information will be provided through social media and the WSIPC website.

Please contact your Information Service Center or WSIPC at [info@wsipc.org](mailto:info@wsipc.org) or (425) 349-6600 with additional questions.