



Sunshine Connections

User Experience through Microsoft Office

SharePoint Server 2007 Technologies

Final

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Overview

The user interface (UI) of Sunshine Connections is implemented using Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007. The first release of Sunshine Connections will contain core Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) analysis functionality specifically allowing teachers to see longitudinal student performance data for each student assigned to their upcoming fall classes. Additionally, as a "support" function, Sunshine Connections is the web-based environment that will enable the rollout of Florida's statewide, pre-populated, online Individualized Education Plan (IEP) – ESE process Web System.

Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007

The user interface (UI) of Sunshine Connections is implemented using Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007. Application functionality may be contained in web parts, or in Active Server Pages (ASP) .Net application components. In either case, most UI components of Sunshine Connections will access web services rather than source data systems to provide a layer of abstraction from underlying data systems to avoid having changes in those data systems force changes in application logic and UI components, and to keep data sources isolated from external internet access.

Web parts can be developed to use the web services of Sunshine Connections to display information or provide application functionality with relatively little code. If a district or software application vendor is using another technology platform such as Java/J2EE for web or portal solutions, or builds Microsoft Windows-based, Apple Macintosh-based, or other operating systems applications, they can still take advantage of the Sunshine Connections web services relatively easily.

Users are challenged for login credentials by the reverse proxy server (a Microsoft ISA Server), which authenticates the credentials against the Microsoft Active Directory domain controller.

Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)

Sunshine Connections will contain core FCAT analysis functionality specifically allowing teachers to see longitudinal student performance data for each student assigned to their upcoming fall classes. This early peek of student performance will allow teachers preparation time to find and/or design curricular materials around the unique needs of each class/student that can be implemented beginning the first day of class.

Individual Education Plan (IEP)

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services is developing a statewide individual educational plan (IEP) and process for school districts. The IEP is being developed in collaboration with various entities and initiatives within DOE including Sunshine Connections. A web-based statewide IEP will insure access to teachers, administrators, parents and DOE personnel and insure compliance with federal and state requirements The Paper Reduction/Statewide IEP Task Force continues to provide guidance and support of this effort.

Sunshine Connections will provide the security, communication, reporting and deployment infrastructure for the IEP Initiative. The initial rollout of the IEP template will be with the cooperation of “designated” Phase 1 and Phase 2 districts, with plans for the remaining districts to participate in the IEP Initiative as determined in jointly-developed migration plans.

For districts that volunteer to participate in the initial deployment of the statewide IEP template through Sunshine Connections, individualized on-site and online support will be provided specific to the needs of the districts through the DOE and Microsoft support contacts.

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