PowerSchool | mcoecn FAQs

1. **ITCs are getting feedback from treasurers in NW Ohio asking why PowerSchool was chosen as the vendor given the problems at Toledo City Schools. ITCs have explained that the MCOECN/ITC software with PowerSchool is a different version, and the issues are related to staff at Toledo, but district treasurers need more clear and definitive feedback, especially from Toledo.**
    a. *PowerSchool offers two ERP solutions to the K12 Market Place. The ERP Solution at Toledo Public Schools is not a different software version, but rather, a completely different product. Please refer to the attached letter from Ryan S. Stechschulte, Treasurer, Toledo Public Schools with regard to their implementation at Toledo.*

2. **What is the deadline for notifying you of district interest for the first wave that begins this summer?**
    a. *May 7, 2016*

3. **If a district is interested in PowerSchool, do they contract with the MCOECN or the ITC?**
    a. *There will be an end-user participation agreement that will be signed by either the ITC or District with the MCOECN.*

4. **Ultimately who does the district pay? How is all that handled?**
    a. *The MCOECN can bill the ITC or the district, at the preference of the ITC. All payments for participating end-users (ITCs and districts) will be to the MCOECN.*

5. **In the "Usage Fee Chart" what does the (Core application + third party) mean?**
    a. *There are two bundles – the Base bundle and Full bundle. The core applications in either bundle are the ERP "modules" themselves. PowerSchool's solutions utilizes some third-party software tools - "frameworks" to deliver their core capabilities. In particular, use of Optio for forms, MKS Toolkit and Cognos. These are the "third-party tools" necessary – and costs of these third-party software tools are included in the Usage Fees.*

6. **Does the Base Bundle include both the Finance solution as well as the HR solution?**
    a. *Both bundles include both the Finance solution and the HR solution.*

7. **Am one correct in assuming that the only demo opportunities are the webinars or will there be any live/face-to-face option?**
    a. *While the preference is to do webinars due to resource and time constraints – local presentations and face-to-face meetings absolutely are options. If that is something you are interested in, we are more than happy to arrange this on your behalf. Please contact get-eFinancePlus@mcoecn.org.*

8. **What if my district wants to participate but my current ITC does not plan to participate in the ERP program?**
    a. *The MCOECN desires for all interested ITCs to participate in the program. In the unlikely event that your ITC is not yet participating in the program, please contact get-eFinancePlus@mcoecn.org and MCOECN staff will reach out to you to assist you.*

9. **If districts can be from any ITC in a wave, do they have to be geographically proximate to participate?**
    a. *There will be 8 wave groups in the first wave implementation. PowerSchool and the MCOECN will work to schedule geographically proximate districts and ITCs in the same wave group when possible.*

10. We don't see state software as being in silos - what makes eFinancePLUS different?

a. *ITCs have historically worked very hard to make the existing USAS and USPS environment as seamless and easy to use as possible. What a lot of customers don't realize is that there are many separate - and aging applications - that allow this to happen - specialized benefits management, data analysis and reporting, and many, many other applications which are costly and resource-intensive to maintain on an on-going basis. eFinancePLUS solves these challenges by providing one integrated solution.*

11. Isn't SIF needed for EMIS reporting why is only available for the Full Bundle?

a. *SIF integration is included in the Base Bundle for Ohio-specific reporting to required state agencies. The SIF integration in the Full Bundle includes both state reporting and integration with any third-party applications required by the district.*

12. How far back will historical accounting and payroll data be loaded?

a. *The user can load up to 5 years of data into the budget prep expenditure and revenue ledger tables. The 5 years include: the budget year, the current year and 3 prior years. This data is available for reporting using the standard Budget Preparation reports. Historical data conversions between two disparate financial systems is never easy due to different field lengths, terminology, format types, and more. Some clients have access to historical data within their legacy system, others will export key reports to searchable pdf files or other searchable databases.*

13. How many districts that are included in wave one, and which potential districts do we have for the second offering period?

a. *The offering period for all waves is currently out until May 7, 2016. This will give ITCs and districts an opportunity to learn more about eFinancePLUS and whether or not they want to participate in the first or second waves. Right now there are 64 slots in Wave 1 and there will be 64 in the second wave. Until we get closer to the deadline, we don't have any data that we can share – but will be able to after we have had time to review past 5-7.*

14. Can you please provide us with a list of which ITC's that will be offering this software to their districts?

a. *All ITCs in Ohio are eligible to participate in the program and we are certainly hopeful that they will decide to participate. As with the districts participating in Wave 1 and 2, we won't know which ITCs are firmly in or out for the initial waves until after 5-7. Having said that, ITCs are welcome to participating after Wave 2 if they choose not to do so in Wave 1 or 2. The MCOECN is committed to ensuring that any district that would like to participate in the program is able to do.*

15. When doing the conversion, is it both financial and human resources or can it be done one at a time?

a. *Each conversion is typically completed according to the schedule setup by the project manager. Financial and HR conversions are completed just prior to their respective training sessions.*

16. Will districts be doing dual entry during conversion and if so how long will the dual entry time be?

a. *Generally, duplicate data entry is only necessary when a vendor, employee, or new account is added to the legacy system after the respective conversion to eFinancePLUS has occurred. In these cases, the vendor or employee should also be added manually to eFinancePLUS. The* *timespan of dual entry would be from the vendor or employee conversion until go-live. Additionally, new accounts added to the legacy system after the Budget Prep conversion will also need to be replicated in eFinancePLUS, although this is a relatively uncommon occurrence.*

17. **At the ITC level we like to be proactive in preparing for new software we will support for our districts. Could you provide a testing environment, so we could become more familiar with PowerSchool processing?**
    a. *The MCOECN is working with PowerSchool to establish a demonstration environment at the MCOECN/PowerSchool hosting center.*

18. **How much historical data will be included? And will this be a part of the "home" page? (we now have a separate site that stores the history a/p files called USASDW)**
    a. *YTD data needed for W2s, 1099s and beginning balances are imported as part of the standard conversion and go live processes. Budget Prep can include up to 5 years of budget/actual data. Historical data conversions between two disparate financial systems is never easy due to different field lengths, terminology, format types, and more. Some clients have access to historical data within their legacy system, others will export key reports to searchable pdf files or other searchable databases.*

19. **Also when they close a month, certain reports are ran and archived. Is this an option in PowerSchool?**
    a. *eFinancePLUS provides a Documents Interface which automatically saves and archives all reports, exports to Excel, and data files created by the software. These files can remain accessible on the server for as long as IT policies allow. Additionally, all reports are generated as .PDF files and can easily be downloaded, shared, or archived at the time they are generated or when accessed through the documents interface.*

20. **Will recordings of the webinars be made available to ITCs and school districts?**
    a. *Weekly webinars are not being recorded, however, additional webinars will be provided on an on-going basis. In addition, new videos will be posted as they are developed by PowerSchool.*