

Specialized, High Efficiency Web-Based Applications for Districts and/or Schools

Custom Web Applications for Districts and Schools Designed Specifically to Increase Organizational Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Customer Satisfaction, While at the Same Time, Substantially Reducing Administrative and Personnel Costs and Burdens, Freeing Administrators to Tackle Substantive Problems.



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VESC™ develops custom web-based applications to meet the specific needs of a district or school system. A web-based application is a custom website created to address a specific need. For example, a web page may be created that allows all district and school administrators to meet at a scheduled or impromptu time for an online chat concerning school-related issues. Another example may be a custom website created that allows all paper forms used by the district to be entered, stored, searched, and retrieved electronically via a web browser using a secure SSL connection.

Examples of custom applications developed for clients are listed below. The examples and possibilities are endless, and VESC has the educational background and technical experience to deliver a custom web application to meet your goals or solve a specific need. Unlike many vendors, VESC specializes in custom web application development for preK-12 districts and schools.

For the past four years, VESC has been a leader in providing customized web-based applications to large and small districts and/or schools. VESC closely works together with our clients to identify and understand each of our client's unique needs and goals. Once client needs and goals are clearly identified, a system plan is developed to address the issue or goal. The system plan is used as a blueprint in the creation of the custom application. A link is provided to every client allowing them to actively monitor the progress of their site development, allowing for the address of changes while the system is being built.

All VESC custom web-based systems are designed to substantially:

- increase access to vital information
- increase the internal and external communications capability of the district and/or school
- increase district and school administrator productivity
- ease district and school administrator duties
- better secure important and sensitive information
- relieve administrators of mundane tasks, freeing them to work on substantive problems
- reduce administrative costs
- reduce personnel costs
- reduce and/or eliminate administrative redundancy and error

ADVANTAGES OF WEB-BASED APPLICATIONS

Web-based applications are changing the face of business, and now, districts and schools. Businesses have been creating custom web applications to drive growth and increase efficiency for the past several decades. Today, the Internet has made these same technological advantages available to small business and education organizations.

Some are referring to the new Internet evolution as Internet 2.0, which refers to new approaches for organizations to use the Internet to increase efficiency, productivity and customer satisfaction, while at the same time, substantially decrease administrative and personnel costs. VESC™ knows that districts and schools can substantially benefit from custom Internet technologies to increase efficiencies while reduce costs.

The advantages of web-based applications are many; just a few are listed below:

- Web-based applications are custom designed to meet the specific need or goal of a district or school. You do not have to purchase one or more costly solutions with features that may never be used. Many stand-alone solutions are not customizable for your current specific or future needs.

- Web-based applications provide 24/7 access from any web browser in the world to the data stored in the custom system. Work from home or from any building; work wirelessly; or work from the road – work anywhere the Internet is available.
- Most administrators and support staff are very familiar with the use of the Internet. Web-based applications look like any other web site, and similarly, are very easy to use – even the most computer-challenged administrator will quickly adapt themselves to a custom web-based solution.
- Web-based applications cannot be outgrown. Web-based applications can be continually updated and changed to meet the needs of a district and/or school. It is not uncommon for a simple chat system to grow into a district-wide communications and course delivery system, once other administrators begin recognizing the power and expandability of the custom web-based application.
- VESC™ web-based applications are secure, fast, and extremely reliable. All VESC™ web-based applications are built using the most secure Internet connections available. Utilizing usernames, passwords, emails, and IP tracking, all users of the customized system are tracked throughout their entire session – every action is recorded. All data is secured and backed up each night at a minimum of two separate locations. All VESC™ custom web-based systems include our proprietary self-monitoring system, which protects against cyber attacks and/or threats, immediately notifying administrators and VESC™.
- VESC™ web-based applications are compatible with all Microsoft Office applications, including Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access. The web application also can be integrated with all leading database systems. Data can be interchanged with most School Management, Human Resource Management, and Federal/State/Local reporting systems.
- VESC™ web-based applications are compatible with all web servers including Apache and Microsoft IIS.
- VESC™ web-based applications can be integrated with Microsoft Outlook, Outlook Calendar, and all other popular calendar and email communications programs.
- VESC™ web-based applications are compatible with all popular web browsers, including Internet Explorer, Netscape, Firefox, and Opera.
- Web-based applications can be hosted on the district or school web server; or the web-based application can be hosted on a VESC™ enterprise-class web server hosted by RackSpace.com, the world leader in dedicated web server hosting. All custom applications hosted on VESC servers are monitored 24/7 by VESC and RackSpace.com personnel.
- Web-based applications are built using industry standard software and databases ensuring complete flexibility and compatibility if you need to switch to another vendor or change server configurations/operating systems.

EXAMPLES OF RECENT PROJECTS

The following is a list of recent projects completed or in-progress. This is just for illustrative purposes; your custom web application may or may not be on this example list. It is also quite possible that your web-based application may actually be a combination of two or more of the following examples. Contact a VESC™ representative to discuss your specific needs, and how a custom web-application may be able to assist in meeting your goals.

Examples of some recent projects:

- **Teacher Recruitment Website:** Custom website for the recruitment of new teachers to a large urban school district. Site was designed to allow potential new teachers to complete all application material on-line, ask questions on-line, and view application status on-line. Administrator controls allowed for the automation of almost all aspects of the application and hire process.
- **Scholarship Eligibility and Applications for School Staff:** Comprehensive web site allowing district teachers to apply for scholarship and loan forgiveness grants over the web. The system allows for district administrators to “upload” staff data, i.e., years on job, current certifications, degrees, etc to the website. Staff members can then check their eligibility based on the uploaded district data. If the staff member is eligible, the staff member can then make the application on-line, and check back for application status.
- **District-Wide Paperless Form System:** Administrators at a medium-sized district had hit their limit as to the amount of paperwork exchanged inside district office and between the district schools. VESC™ assisted in merging and reorganizing all the documents that were continually exchanged between the schools. Once organized, the forums were created using a web-based application allowing district and school administrators to update and access the information from any web browser, 24 hours a day. The system has drastically reduced costs, reduced redundancy, increased productivity, and eased administrator duties.
- **Special Education Professional Development Course System:** Professional development system that allows a special education district of over 30 schools to manage the professional development of over 500 teachers. This system was customized using the VESC Staff and Course On-Line Professional Development Management System (more information: <http://vesc-education.com/pdm/>).
- **Student Chat Room with Visible Student Moderator and Invisible Staff Moderator:** Provide a chat room for over 400 students from 3pm to 10pm each night, while a moderator (teacher from the school) watched over the chat invisibly. Chat room was linked directly from school website to VESC™ Education chat server. All transcripts of chats are saved for future reference.
- **Web-Based Course Delivery System:** Installed open-source on-line course delivery system for school district. System allows teachers to input all course information, assignments, quizzes, tests, etc. into the system. Students can then login to the system and work through the curriculum. Chat system and forums were included to create a comprehensive on-line learning environment. (For more information about VESC™ Chat and Forum solutions, please visit: <http://vesc-education.com/3in1>. Also visit VESC™s interactive professional development courses, which utilize similar on-line educational delivery technology, <http://vesc-education.com/edchallenge>).
- **Central Repository for Vocational Training Material:** Created a customized website for medium-sized school district to store and organize vocational training materials. Vocational training materials that needed to be stored and distributed throughout the district included DVD/VHS videos, audio cassettes, digital books, links, and other multimedia.
- **Para-professional Schedule System:** Small school system needed a calendar system to schedule all para-professionals on a day-by-day, week-by-week, or month-to-month basis. All para-professionals are able to login to the district web site to view/print their schedules. Any changes made to the paraprofessionals schedules automatically are

emailed and sent by Instant Message to the para-professionals' mobile phones. Administrators can print full month calendars of paraprofessional schedules for easy visual reference. System will be upgraded in the future to allow paraprofessionals to enter their time cards and overtime.

- **On-Line Application System for District/School Support Personnel:** Medium-sized school needed electronic method to accept, organize, and process application for support staff, i.e., janitorial, secretarial, and other assistant/administrative positions. Web site was set up that allowed potential applicants to learn more about the positions, and then apply, if qualified. School administrators were able to use the system to process the application – from background checks, to employment verification, to reference interviews. The system provides administrators with a central database to store and analyze all information concerning an applicant before making a decision.

**For more information about
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