

# ÉDU-GROUP PORTAL

## Société GRICS education portal

Website demo: <http://portail.grics.qc.ca>

### ADVANTAGES AND BENEFITS

- *Integration of personal tools telecollaboration tools and pedagogical resources*
- *Internet access from school, home, or work*
- *Efficient and powerful telecollaboration tools*
- *Creation of dynamic work groups*
- *Customizable work tools in a personal environment*
- *Seamless integration of Société GRICS applications*
- *Single sign-on*
- *User-friendly*

**É**DU-GROUP PORTAL is Société GRICS' gateway for joint initiatives between schools, school boards or other organizations.

The Québec Education Program encourages student communities to actively engage in cooperative projects, sharing tools and resources. Each group operates in its own environment and can have recourse to various tools to exchange information, share experiences and expertise, manage documents or simply invite colleagues to a virtual or actual meeting.

### Intended clientele

- Teachers and other education professionals
- Students
- Parents
- Non-teaching personnel





EDU-GROUP PORTAL is a meeting place where partners in a learning community can each access content in a password-protected area. Users have their own personal areas and can also enter areas shared by the members of the communities to which they belong.

## Personal area

This is the area from which users access their documents, their tools, as well as various pedagogical and administrative applications such as My Portfolio, GPI-Internet, Reperes, INFINI, electronic forms, etc.

### Tools

- E-mail
- Personal address book
- Personal agenda (calendar, GPI timetable)
- Task lists
- Lists of communities
- Pedagogical resources
- Bookmarks
- RSS Feeds
- Personal document management stored on the Portal or on a file server
- Edu-notes (Web-mode text editor with spellchecker and advanced page-design functions)
- Search engine
- Work-environment customization
- Community creation and management
- Multiple-calendar merging
- Multiple-group event journals
- Event log



## Tools for Parents

Edu-Group Portal allows parents to monitor their children's education from kindergarten to graduation. They can track many of their children's activities and interact directly in several (reasons for student absences, change of address, community participation etc.)

### Available services :

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| • General Information        | • Homework and lessons                                     |
| • Student timetables         | • Announcements  |
| • Student absences and lates | • Course selection   |
| • Student school marks       | • Specific GRICS tools such as My Portfolio, Memos and ISM |
| • School items               |  |

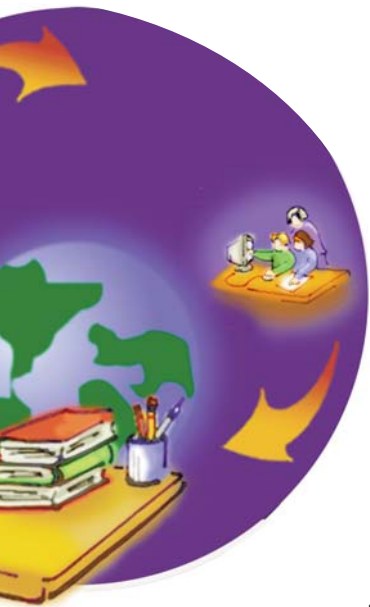


## Shared area : community

A community is a virtual workspace where members can communicate, share files and expertise, as well as discuss in online forums and publish web pages.

The Québec Education Program stresses the importance of engaging student communities in cooperative projects and the EDU-GROUP PORTAL opens the door to a host of adaptable tools.

Depending on privileges granted, users may be given permission to create, consult, join and publish communities. Guests may be invited to join all or selected communities.



### Types of communities

- Private community: open only to chosen members - registration upon invitation by community owner(s)
- Semi-public community: open to all - registration must be approved by community owner(s)
- Public community: open to all - automatic registration

### Tools available for all communities

- Discussion forums
- Shared agendas
- Document sharing
- Task lists
- Address books
- Bookmarks
- Chat rooms
- Cyber class
- Event log

### Examples of communities

- Class communities, by subject or homeroom  
Example: Class 121, Math 536 group 03
- Specific communities educational project  
Example: Butterflies , Through my window, My origins, My School Website
- Professional communities  
Example: Secondary 1 math teachers, Psycho-educators, Pedagogical consultants
- Management communities  
Example: School principals, Governing Boards, School Success Plan committees, ICT educational-project committees



## Architecture

- Decentralized mode: the school board owns and operates its own portal
- Internet access: documents and tools are always available, from school, from home, from anywhere.
- Single sign-on: only one code and one password allows a user to access all tools and applications

## Technological environment

- Web server
- SQL server
- Mail servers
  - IMAP and SMTP protocol support
  - Antivirus, anti-spamming
- File servers
- Thin clients (network computers not requiring hard disk drives)

## Educational resources carrefour

The EDU-GROUP PORTAL offers school boards a carrefour of educational resources. Teachers and students are invited to participate in a number of pedagogical projects initiated and maintained by the Société.

The carrefour also showcases projects created by teachers and the contributions of project participants. Members have access to user-appropriate educational resources, to reports on innovative projects and to current-affairs columns.

## Pedagogical Networking

Edu-Group Portal is an educational hub of expertise and resources for teachers, pedagogical consultants and other interested practitioners. School boards that use the Edu-Group Portal are invited to share what they have developed and to benefit from what others have done. Portal users have access to documents detailing board experiences in installing and implementing the portal - its use and maintenance - to online help, to training vignettes, to publication templates, to lists of resources for specific clients, to directories of activities, etc

## User Committee

This committee has been struck to serve the needs of all Edu-Group Portal users. Input from organizations that use the Edu-Group Portal are welcomed. Members of the User Committee set priorities for ongoing development of the portal, evaluate new prototypes and features, as well as validate the orientations of the Edu-Group Portal.



For more information please visit our Web site at [www.grics.qc.ca](http://www.grics.qc.ca), or communicate with Customer Service at (514) 251-3730 or by e-mail at [info@grics.qc.ca](mailto:info@grics.qc.ca).