D70 SKYWARD MIGRATION

Presented by: Kristen Sebring, Process Improvement Coordinator

April 21, 2025

D70 Business Office

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Delays in Product Development

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Kristen Sebring
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About Skyward

Since 1980, Skyward has been used by more than 2,500 school districts. Their enterprise resource planning (ERP) software stores budgetary and employment data, all the while streamlining essential business processes.

In 2014 Skyward began developing Qmlativ, an innovative software program that boasted their most advanced ERP technology yet.

District 70

D70 began using Skyward in 2005. For the next 20 years the district processed payroll using Skyward's point and click (PAC) software. In recent years, accounts payable, purchasing and bookkeeping transitioned to Skyward's first iteration of a web-based software (SMS 2.0). However, neither version was user friendly and the technology was outdated.

When Stacey Bachar joined D70 in 2023 as the CSBO and Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, she heard her team's frustrations with the outdated software. There was a clear need for an innovative platform that was easier to use, had more functionality and could keep up with evolving business and technology practices. With support from district leadership and the Board of Education, the decision to migrate to Qmlativ was made.
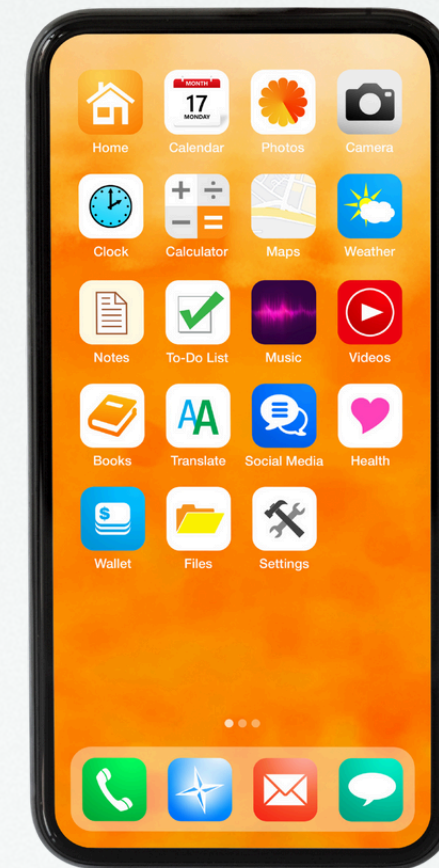
Skyward's Evolution

Point & Click (PAC)

SMS 2.0

Qmlativ

Qmlativ

Flexible Architecture

Qmlativ applies the latest technology and design to provide a user-centric experience. It features enhanced security, integrates with 3rd party platforms such as Red Rover and includes a host of tools to improve efficiency.

Simple & Customizable Design

The simplified design is intuitive and easy to navigate. Users can customize Qmlativ by adding graphs and charts, create favorites for one-click navigation and more.

Enhanced Support

Skyward hosts a dynamic, self-service support website with an intelligent search capability that includes multimedia tutorials and interactive flowcharts. They also offer direct assistance via support tickets.

Continuing Education & Training

Skyward provides free monthly CE courses and has a full library of training videos. Annual conferences and other events are offered too.

Migration Timeline

July 2023

Research & data cleanup

- Meet with leadership and stakeholders
- Cleanup data in existing software in preparation of migration

February 2024

Pre-migration Preparation

- Discuss timeline and resources
- Schedule migration with Skyward
- Determine network infrastructure and integrations

April 2024

Test database & training

- Setup and configure the test database
- Complete training courses and videos
- Verify test data
- Practice, practice, practice

March 2025

Launch Qmlativ

- Shut down PAC and SMS 2.0 databases to migrate data to Qmlativ
- Setup, verify and test database
- Launch district-wide

Testimonials

- "As a building leader, I appreciate how Qmlativ allows me to quickly and efficiently review and approve staff orders while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Principals juggle a wide range of responsibilities, and this new platform helps streamline one important piece of the work so we can stay focused on leading our schools."
Dr. Jonathan R. Hallmark, Principal, Highland Middle School

- "Navigating websites has never been my forte so for me to say I can find my way around this site speaks volumes. With a fluctuating monthly paycheck due to Extra Duty reimbursements, Supervision hourly pay, etc. I have always found it helpful how Skyward lists the pay transactions in detail allowing me to easily see what my paycheck entails for that period. The bimonthly emails we receive alerting us with the next pay cycle's information are incredibly helpful. Even accessing W2's for taxes is a breeze. I love that I can retrieve past paycheck history if information is needed without having to keep a paper trail, it is all right there for me."
Erin Koehlhoeffer, PE/Health Teacher, Butterfield School

Testimonials

"The district's commitment to excellence and meticulous planning truly embodied what it takes to achieve a successful transition.

From the beginning, the leadership team demonstrated exceptional foresight and strategic thinking. They engaged with staff to ensure everyone was on board and well-informed about the upcoming changes.

The project team prioritized clear communication throughout the process. Regular updates and open channels for feedback allowed for a smooth and transparent migration.

A special shout-out to Kristen for her exceptional utilization of resources, time spent building and practicing daily tasks, and unwavering dedication. Her efforts were pivotal in ensuring the success of this migration. Kristen's commitment to excellence and her ability to navigate challenges with grace and efficiency truly made a vital impact.

Libertyville's Qmlativ migration was a resounding success due to their unwavering dedication, collaborative spirit, and overall proficiency. They have set a high standard for how Qmlativ migrations should be managed, and I am confident that their approach will serve as a model for other districts aiming for similar achievements."

Nicki Matson, Qmlativ Migration Project Manager, Skyward Inc.

What's Next?

Implementation

- Staff training
- Build proficiency and speed
- Role-based customization

Evaluation & Support

- Gather feedback
- Review processes
- Continuing education

Goals

- Human Resourses to begin using Qmlativ
- Optimize Qmlativ for applicable state and federal reporting submissions
- Reduce manual processes and improve efficiency by implementing unused functionality

QUESTIONS