

Summary

Use of ICT in schools in Grenada is not extensive. The primary and secondary schools are using ICT on a pilot basis. Two secondary schools offer students access to computer labs to enable preparation for the CXC ICT exams. However, the MOE has initiated two innovative programs: in the first, expatriate Grenadian university students and others are invited to return to Grenada to assist with ICT maintenance; the second, still in development, is television programming intended to strengthen children's decision-making abilities.

Grenada has among the lowest rates of per capita GDP in the Caribbean. Resources for ICT in schools have historically been limited.

In 2004, Hurricane Ivan devastated the island, with negative impacts on schools and the education system that continue to be felt.



Overall, the use of ICT in schools and throughout the education system has not progressed at a rate approaching that of larger neighbors Barbados or Trinidad and Tobago, or to the extent of some of the

Basic Data

Category	Date	Value
Population	2006	89,703
Per capita GDP (PPP)	2005	\$3,900
Economy, composition	2006	Tourism, manufacturing, construction, financial services
Literacy, total population 15 and over	2003	96%
Literacy rate (women)	—	NA
Gross enrollment ratio, primary	2002/3	119.6
Gross enrollment ratio, primary (girls)	2002/3	118.6
Gross enrollment ratio, secondary	—	NA
Gross enrollment ratio, secondary (girls)	—	NA
Number of primary schools	2006	450
Number of secondary schools	2006	22
Language of instruction	—	English

Sources: World Factbook, UNESCO, MOE

smaller islands such as St. Lucia. Two secondary schools have labs at present, with computers used for preparation for the CXC ICT exams and to reinforce math and science learning.

The MOE has, however, initiated two innovative programs. First, to address lack of maintenance and repair capacity, expatriate alumni, such as students at universities abroad, are invited back for two months during summer to assist with repairs and maintenance. Second, to support children's decision-making in relation to life choices and their relations with others, as well as their self-esteem, the MOE has launched development of a television program. As a first step, 15-minute scripts have been solicited from schools and students.

With a population of approximately 89,000, Grenada is among the smallest countries in the Western Hemisphere. Per capita GDP of US\$3,900 is among the lowest in the Caribbean; 32 percent of Grenadians live below the national poverty line. The services sector is the economy's largest (62 percent), followed by agriculture (24 percent), and manufacturing (14 percent).

In September 2004, Grenada suffered widespread devastation resulting from the landfall of Hurricane Ivan. Schools were destroyed, with concomitant damage to school computer facilities. In most instances, damaged computers have yet, as of early 2007, to be replaced.

Policy and planning

The MOE is developing an ICT policy in education. Working closely with OERU personnel, MOE is

Relevant Policies

Document	Status	Date	Key points and objectives
ICT Policy in Education	Draft in development	2007	Not known

Source: MOE

revising that organization's policy template to reflect conditions and objectives in Grenada.

ICT in Schools

Beginning in 2003, the MOE with funding from OAS has introduced ICT into primary and secondary schools on a pilot basis. No evaluation results are available.

A program is underway to address the critical challenge of maintenance with an innovative model. At present, MOE is responsible for providing maintenance and repair services, however, lack of capacity and lack of resources render technical support a critical challenge. To address this, once every year, young Grenadians attending community college abroad are invited back to the country to visit schools and provide maintenance and repairs.

The MOE has in 2007 initiated development of educational-television programming.

Primary schools

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan conditions in primary schools remain substandard, with several

ICT Resources in Schools

School type	Number	Median enrollment	ICT profile
Primary schools, government	—	—	—
Primary schools, private	—	—	—
Secondary schools	22	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2 schools have labs with 25 computers ■ Labs have ADSL connections to the Internet ■ All secondary schools have administrative computers and dial-up Internet connections

Source: MOE

schools still not open. A portion of current OAS funding targets school reconstruction. Administrative computers and other ICT facilities have yet to be replaced in the schools in which they were damaged

Secondary schools

Of the 22 secondary schools, two have two computer labs each, partially funded by OAS. Twenty-five computers were installed in each lab; labs are connected to the Internet via ADSL. In late 2006, MOE was finalizing a contract with C & W to supply all schools, which currently have at least one administrative computer, with ADSL connectivity. (Currently, schools have dial-up Internet accounts.)

The main use of labs in the two schools that have them is preparation for the CXC ICT exam. However, students in these schools also use computers to reinforce math and science learning.

Educational television

MOE has initiated development of the “Character Counts” television series. The development process has begun with an invitation to schools to support the initiative by creating 15-minute scripts focusing on: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Schools are asked to encourage students to participate in developing the scripts.

Teacher professional development

TPD is primarily delivered as pre-service education in the T.A. Marryshow Community College, which offers both teaching certificates and B.Ed. degrees. The college has an ICT facility, but the level of access afforded education students is not known. The community college also offers pre-service TPD for new teachers.

Within the last five years, UWI offered a workshop to 25 Grenadian teachers on the integration of ICT into the classroom curriculum. Although the workshop was well received, teachers’ limited access to computers compromised teachers’ retention of skills, techniques, and knowledge.

Tertiary education

Tertiary education in Grenada is provided by the T.A. Marryshow Community College, which was formed in 1998 by merger of nine pre-existing colleges, institutes, and schools. These included the Grenada Teachers College, as well as several organizations providing technical or vocational education.

The community college offers a two-year Certificate in Further Education in Information Technology. Levels of access to ICT afforded students in other programs (including teacher development) are not known. Preparation for the CAPE ICT exam is not available at the college.

Teacher Professional Development Programs

TPD program type	Target population	Objectives	Scale	Barriers
T.A. Marryshow Community College	Pre-service primary teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2-year certificate in Teacher Education ■ 4-year B.Ed. ■ ICT available on campus 	—	—
T.A. Marryshow Community College	In-service primary and secondary teachers (New hires)	—	—	—
UWI	In-service primary and secondary teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide teachers with basic IT skills ■ Train teachers to integrate technology into their regular curricula 	■ 25 teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Teachers’ limited access to technology in schools ■ Limited number of teachers trained ■ One-time program

Sources: MOE, The Natoma Group

Nonformal, distance, and open education

The UWI Learning Center offers adult-education classes using distance learning. In a second program, a Montessori program in Mexico provides training to community workers using a satellite connection.

EMIS and use of ICT by MOE

Respondents in Grenada report that OERU is revisiting selection of an EMIS product, with possible funding from CDB. Although apprised of the initiative, the MOE does not at present have a position on EMIS.

As mentioned, capacity for technical support within MOE is inadequate. The MOE is among the several Grenadian ministries that do not support web sites or web pages linked to the national government's web site. (The ministries of agriculture, finance, and tourism are the exceptions.)

Barriers and challenges

- **Funding:** In 2004, many schools were severely damaged, with damages including loss of computers (primarily administrative). These computers, and several entire primary-school facilities, have not been repaired or restored.