

PEARSON

Challenge

Every district faces its own unique set of feature requirements and challenges. The Beach Park School District in Beach Park, Illinois is no different. More than three years ago, the Beach Park School District embarked on a comprehensive search for the right student information system for its rural district of 2,500 students in K-8 schools.

At the onset of their search, Beach Park took a critical first step in choosing the right student information system by identifying the unique needs and challenges of the district. Since one size doesn't fit all, Beach Park sought a system that would provide a collaborative, flexible and effective infrastructure that would power the performance of all stakeholders in the district from administrators and teachers to parents and students.

Unlike other rural districts, Beach Park prides itself as a cutting-edge district in terms of technology. Server-based systems and thin client workstations have replaced all standalone computers. As such, the district would require a SIF compliant, web-based solution that would focus primarily on student data, parental involvement, teacher gradebook and special education support.

Determined to achieve easier state reporting, more efficient data collection and faster reporting, Beach Park launched an extensive, three-year search for the right solution for its districts that would collectively benefit teachers, technology directors, principals, students and parents.

Solution

Beach Park assembled a committee of 15 stakeholders within the district from teachers to board members to secretaries to preview and review an array of student information system options within the educational technology marketplace.

Eventually, the committee narrowed down the decision to Infinite Campus and PowerSchool Premier. After a final review of Infinite Campus, Beach Park decided to take another look at PowerSchool Premier in 2007 to review



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Melodie Mayne, Chief Technology Officer for the Beach Park School District

some of the system's recent updates, including the new gradebook and the query system update. The district was able to take advantage of PowerSchool's open SIS capabilities to choose a best-of-breed vendor for the special education needs.

The improved interface and preferred usability ultimately finalized the decision for the district who commended Pearson's ongoing commitment throughout the year process. As promised from the onset, they succeeded in delivering and implementing the customizable and interoperable student information system that the district had long been searching for.

Benefits

The Beach Park School District implemented PowerSchool Premier, the first student information system designed from the ground up as a web-based solution. With this solution, small to mid-sized districts like Beach Park can combine and automate critical functions like attendance, complex scheduling, classroom grading, and reporting through a single centralized relational database to accommodate the unique requirements of a school and district. This integrated approach provides mid-sized districts with a higher return on investment by minimizing training, maintenance and future expenditures.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SIS: BEACH PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT FINDS CUSTOMIZABLE, FLEXIBLE SOLUTION IN POWERSCHOOL PREMIER

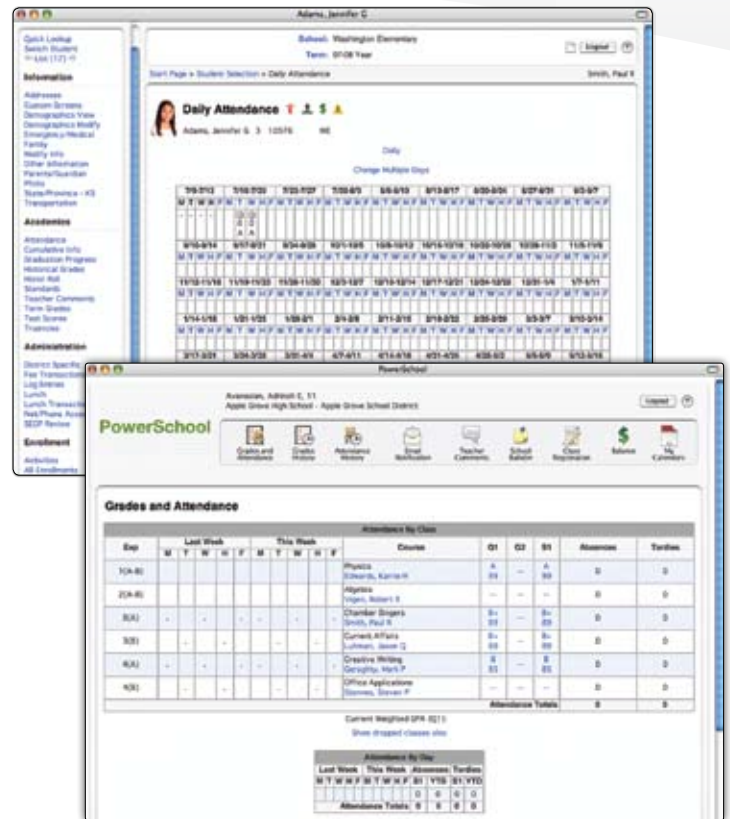
With a SIF compliant solution like PowerSchool Premier, the Beach Park School District can now integrate their systems with instructional management, assessment, transportation, health, food service, library, and similar applications. In particular, the district plans to integrate PowerLunch and a special education solution in the SIS.

“With this solution, Beach Park can fulfill its long-term goal of opening a parent portal – something we’ve been trying to do for eight years,” said Melodie Mayne, Chief Technology Officer for the Beach Park School District. “In addition, our district is thrilled that teachers will now be able to utilize the industry’s easiest, most teacher-friendly gradebook.”

The right student information system needs to encourage communication and collaboration and the Beach Park School District was able to find this in PowerSchool Premier. By selecting this Pearson solution, the district understands that choice also means that you know that a student information system isn’t the final step, but the beginning of a series of steps where technology is leveraged to achieve the best performance for all stakeholders. As such, the district has long-term plans to enhance the system this year and beyond as it works towards its ultimate goals of student achievement and parent/teacher collaboration.

About Pearson

Pearson is the global leader in educational publishing, assessment, information and services, helping people of all ages to learn at their own pace, in their own way. For students preK-12, Pearson provides effective and innovative curriculum products in all available media, educational assessment and measurement for students and teachers, student information systems, and teacher professional development and certification programs. Our respected brands include PowerSchool Premier, Chancery SMS, Pearson Inform, Scott Foresman, Prentice Hall and many others. Our comprehensive offerings help inform targeted instruction and intervention so that success is within reach of every student. Pearson’s other primary businesses include the Financial Times Group and the Penguin Group.



Administrators

Provides the range of features needed by administrators at the district and school level:

- Student enrollment
- Attendance
- Student demographics
- Parent/guardian information
- Emergency/medical information
- Student and faculty schedules
- Report generation
- Discipline
- Faculty demographics
- Activities

Parents and Students

Lets parents become more involved in their child’s education:

- Grades
- Attendance
- Assignments
- Teacher comments
- School bulletin
- Fees