

PEARSON

Challenge

Preparing students with the knowledge and skills for the future is the goal of Lapeer Community Schools in Lapeer, Michigan. Whether it's reporting, grading, scheduling or communicating, the right educational technology solution can deliver the information needed to make better, more timely decisions, which can have a significant impact in helping students perform and succeed. After using a legacy student information system (SIS) for more than 12 years, Lapeer Community Schools sought a better solution that would enable administrators, teachers and parents to work together to prime 21st century students for the future.

CIMS, the district's legacy student information system, did not offer a web-based grade book or parent portal, which forced the district to work with two additional vendors to meet the data needs of 6,816 students, 380 teachers, and 360 support staff across 11 schools. As a result, this caused delayed information and inefficiencies for the district as well as unnecessary maintenance and costs. Teachers and parents were unable to communicate between the grade book and parent portal, causing parents to wait one or two weeks for updated information on student grades and performance issues. Since the district was using a decentralized solution, teachers and administrators sacrificed additional time and effort on system tasks rather than classroom learning.

In 2006, the state of Michigan signed into law a rigorous new set of statewide graduation requirements to ensure Michigan's students have the skills and knowledge needed for the jobs of the 21st Century global economy. The law, known as Michigan Merit Curriculum, requires all students to meet a new set of criteria prior to graduation. With such an undertaking, Lapeer Community Schools and all K-12 schools in the state would need to have the right technology infrastructure in place to align a new curriculum to meet graduation requirements for the state.



“THE UPGRADE FROM CIMS TO POWERSCHOOL HAS TRANSFORMED HOW WE OPERATE ON A DAILY BASIS. OUR INCREASED EFFICIENCY, PRODUCTIVITY, AND ABILITY TO COLLABORATE AS A DISTRICT NOW ENABLES US TO MAKE A GREATER IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING.”

Brenda Weir, Technical Specialist for Lapeer Community Schools.

Solution

Faced with a new set of state course requirements and the need for a single, centralized web-based system, Lapeer Community Schools took immediate action in upgrading the district's technology infrastructure. While CIMS was able to meet some of the district's basic needs, it was not equipped to provide the access to real-time data and the analysis tools necessary to impact decision making necessary to move Lapeer Community Schools to 21st century learning.

Following a successful, long-term partnership with Pearson, the district elected to upgrade to PowerSchool Premier, the first student information system designed from the ground up as a web-based solution. Pearson's implementation manager and technology contact worked closely with the district throughout the integration of PowerSchool Premier, which launched in the district in January 2007.



AS A CENTRALIZED SOLUTION, POWERSCHOOL PREMIER ENABLED THE LAPEER ADMINISTRATION TO INTEGRATE A NEW SCHEDULING SYSTEM BASED ON THE NEW CURRICULUM REQUIRED FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOLS GRADUATE IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

With PowerSchool Premier, Lapeer Community Schools created a centralized infrastructure that no longer required multiple vendors. The district opted to integrate PowerTeacher in K-8 and the parent portal in the high schools, which together enable the district to decrease administrative tasks for teachers to allow for more instructional time in the classroom and increase the role of parental involvement. PowerTeacher, Pearson's web-based grade book, and the parent portal enable students, parents, and teachers to perform tasks and work together more efficiently. By saving time on manual tasks like attendance and entering grades, Lapeer teachers can dedicate more classroom time to instruction rather than administrative work. The parent portal creates a forum for

collaboration between parents and teachers, and provides parents and students with real-time access to student information.

Lapeer Community Schools also added an additional feature to its SIS with Pearson Inform, a performance reporting system that gives principals access to intuitive reports on student achievement and make it easier for schools to target assistance, measure progress, and inform decisions.

Benefits

Preparing students for the 21st workforce is a #1 concern for the state of Michigan and Lapeer Community Schools. The district met the challenge of the new Michigan Merit Curriculum head on by building a technology infrastructure capable of helping teachers see the big academic picture for each of their students. As a centralized solution, PowerSchool Premier enabled the Lapeer administration to integrate a new scheduling system based on the new curriculum required for all high schools graduate in the state of Michigan.

By using a web-based teacher grade book, with real-time access, Lapeer educators can identify potential problems and take the appropriate prescriptive actions to ensure that each student is performing to the best of his or her ability. Teachers and administrators can analyze patterns and make recommendations based upon these patterns and get to the heart of what users need to know. In the past, the student management system offered a basic repository of data but to make sense of that data, an administrator would have to proactively mine the database and attempt to extrapolate meaning from that data.

With the help of PowerTeacher, Pearson's web-based grade book, and Pearson Inform, the district can now make data driven decisions for students each day and look at grades immediately to know if a student needs to take or retake a specific course to meet that graduation requirement. Parent involvement has also improved significantly at Lapeer Community Schools. With instant access to student information and grades, parents are no longer missing that crucial opportunity to get involved and intervene.



By giving students access to the parent portal, the district has reinforced personal responsibility and accountability – two crucial life skills for 21st century students and tomorrow’s business leaders.

“The upgrade from CIMS to PowerSchool has transformed how we operate on a daily basis. Our increased efficiency, productivity, and ability to collaborate as a district now enables us to make a greater impact on student learning,” said Brenda Weir, Technical Specialist for Lapeer Community Schools. “We are equipped to make the timely, data driven decisions that better prepare our students with the knowledge and skills required for the 21st century workforce.”

About Pearson

Pearson, the global leader in education and education technology, reaches and engages today’s digital natives with effective and personalized learning, as well as dedicated professional development for their teachers. This commitment is demonstrated in the company’s investment in innovative print and digital education materials for preK through college, student information systems and learning management systems, teacher professional development, career certification programs, and testing and assessment products that set the standard for the industry. The company’s respected brands include Scott Foresman, Prentice Hall, Addison Wesley, Benjamin Cummings, PEMSolutions, Stanford 10, SuccessNet, MyLabs, PowerSchool, SuccessMaker, and many others. Pearson’s comprehensive offerings help inform targeted instruction and intervention so that success is within reach of every student at every level of education. Pearson’s commitment to education for all is supported by the global philanthropic initiatives of the Pearson Foundation. Pearson’s other primary businesses include the Financial Times Group and the Penguin Group.