

# Meridian Joint School District Increases Involvement and Accountability with Advanced Communication Through PowerSchool Premier

## QUICK FACTS

### Parent Access Participation:

- 75% of middle school parents
- 77% of high school parents

### Parents signed up for email updates:

- 26.3% in middle school
- 20.4% in high school

## CHALLENGE

Meridian Joint School District, in Meridian, ID is recognized throughout the state for understanding the value that information and communication brings to the education process. The district also recognizes the impact technology can have on improving communication across the entire school community. As the largest and fastest growing school district in Idaho, Meridian has opened 1 to 2 new schools each year on average over the past 10 years. Meridian Joint School District has nearly 32,000 students, 43 schools and 1,700 faculty members. The district student population is growing by 1,700 to 2,000 students per year.

Like most large school districts, Meridian has struggled to effectively track and manage ever increasing amounts of student data. The district requires schools to monitor and record students' demographic information, class schedules, discipline, grades, attendance and many other variables – a difficult task in such a fast growing environment. Meridian School district has also been a leader in programs to promote parental involvement; however, the district's old student system was not designed for efficient parent communication. Manual uploads of student data took up to 24 hours or sometimes longer.

Meridian was in need of a comprehensive, centralized Student Information System that could track and report this enormous amount of data through a web-based interface. The district administration and staff recognized the benefits of leveraging the web to provide their parents, students, faculty and administrators with access to real-time student information anytime, anywhere. The ability to gather and store data in a central location would increase the level of accountability for all stakeholders, leading to optimal student achievement.

## SOLUTION

After a district committee conducted a thorough evaluation led by Dr. Jerry Reininger, Director of Information Systems, Dr. Linda Clark, Superintendent at the district, recommended to the local board of education that Meridian Joint School District conduct a full-scale implementation of PowerSchool Premier. Chief among their reasons for selecting PowerSchool was the fact that it was designed from the ground up as a web-based, universal platform solution providing access to data anywhere, anytime via a web browser with an Internet connection. PowerSchool Premier reflects updates immediately after teachers enter information, whether it's a test score or daily attendance. This provided Meridian School District with the ability to store its data in a single, centralized, relational database that makes it simple and easy to do district-wide reporting. With its cross-platform capabilities, PowerSchool can even share data via Windows or a Mac.

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“PowerSchool Parent has surpassed all expectations by increasing the parent access to current attendance, assignments, grades, school bulletins, and teacher notes. Parents are thrilled with the up-to-date information readily available to them.”

Tammy Neptune  
Education Technology Specialist  
Meridian Joint School District

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For more information  
about PowerSchool, visit  
[www.pearsonschools.com](http://www.pearsonschools.com)  
on the World Wide Web  
or call 877-873-1550.

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## BENEFIT

Meridian Joint School District eagerly launched PowerSchool Premier in the district, leveraging every aspect of the system within the first year of implementation. PowerSchool Premier’s easy-to-use communication tools created a simple channel for Meridian students, parents, teachers, and administrators to collaborate for improved overall student achievement. Today, PowerSchool’s parent access feature is a favorite among parents, teachers, and administrators – enabling increased accountability among all parties. Parents and teachers feel PowerSchool has transformed the typical parent-teacher conference from a one-way discussion outlining a student’s performance, into a dynamic and collaborative conversation about strategies and next steps for increased improvement and success. On average, about 75% of middle school parents use the parent access feature and more than 26% have signed up to receive automatic email updates. Additionally, 77% of high school parents are using the parent access feature and more than 20% are registered to receive automatic email updates. With the information provided by PowerSchool Premier, Meridian Joint School District teachers are able to more quickly and efficiently develop their lessons and focus on the individual needs of each student – resulting in a more personalized and customized educational experience and overall improvements in student performance. PowerSchool Premier advanced Meridian Joint School District’s reporting processes beyond standard administrative reporting, allowing them to use the data gathered for state reporting and to positively impact student achievement across their entire district.

## ABOUT PEARSON

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