



Challenge

With eleven elementary schools and three high schools scattered across five different islands in Nassau, Bahamas, the Diocese of Nassau struggled with a decentralized technology infrastructure for several years. Using a complex student information system with server maintenance issues and inaccurate data, the diocese sought a new solution to some of its ever-growing challenges.

While many schools in the U.S. are accustomed to reporting to the state level, the Diocese of Nassau is required to report its student data on two different levels – national reporting, which is similar to state level reporting, and archdiocesan reporting to the ministry of education that governs education throughout the Bahamas. As such, the diocese needed a web-based student information system that would enable each school to collect and report accurate data for more than 3,500 students.

In addition to improving system communication and data issues, the diocese hoped that a new and improved technology infrastructure would accomplish two primary goals: 1) involve parents in student education on a greater level; and 2), fuel healthy academic competition among students and enhance student achievement levels.

Solution

Prior to the 2006-2007 school year, the Diocese of Nassau found a web-based, centralized technology solution in Pearson's PowerSchool Premier, the first student information system designed specifically as a web-based solution, which offers easy access, real-time data via a standard web browser, on a Macintosh or Windows PC for K-12 districts.

While the new system offers a more user-friendly interface and streamlines data reporting capabilities for administrators, two key features are making a substantial impact on Nassau, Freeport and Marsh Harbour teachers,



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parents and students – PowerTeacher and the parent portal.

PowerTeacher, Pearson's web-based gradebook for teachers, simplifies the tasks teachers perform daily by taking attendance, entering grades, initiating student and parent communication, posting assignments, and assessing student alerts and demographic information.

The parent portal, which was launched in the diocese at the onset of the 2007-2008 school year, enables parents to view grades, attendance, and other school/home communications anytime, anywhere while students can also regularly check their academic performance as well with the feature.

Benefits

Located across five different islands in the Bahamas, the Diocese of Nassau has been able to go from five servers to one server with the centralized system offered by PowerSchool Premier. From readily available information and accessibility of support to user-friendly features and accurate reporting capabilities, the diocese has taken its technology infrastructure to the next level with the PowerSchool solution.



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Teachers in the Diocese are thrilled with the PowerSchool web grade book, which now allows them to communicate with parents in real-time. In turn, parental involvement has seen a vast improvement over the last year with the new parent portal feature. Since integration, nearly 75% of parents have used the portal to access student information. As hoped, this level of parent involvement has motivated and inspired students in their own performance.

“PowerSchool has been a blessing for us, particularly our administrators and central office leadership, enabling us to view information from anywhere – island to island,” said Claudette Rolle, Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Nassau. “Above all, this web-based solution is having a tremendous impact on parental involvement, which has motivated students to raise the bar when it comes to their academic performance.”

Most importantly, the Diocese of Nassau now has the power to make more valuable decisions based on the data collected by the student information solution – and this has enhanced the performance of the diocese overall from administrators and teachers to parents and students.

About Pearson

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