



Challenge

The Natomas Unified School District in Sacramento, California began as a small, rural elementary school district. But in a period of about ten years, nine new schools were constructed in this fast-growing unified district. Today, Natomas Unified consists of six elementary schools, one K-8 school, two middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, one continuation high school and three charter schools. A new elementary school and middle school are under construction and scheduled for completion in summer 2008. Serving 11,000-plus students, the district is expected to grow approximately by 1,000 students per year for the next five years.

Growth and expansion certainly contribute to the strength and success of a district, but this can also create many communication, reporting, and operational challenges. With a progressive board, visionary leadership and outstanding teaching staff, Natomas Unified needed a worthy student information system counterpart that would further data analysis for the district, enhance student assessment, and build a collaborative environment for parental involvement and parent/teacher collaboration.

The Natomas Unified School District needed to upgrade to an interoperable, web-based solution that could offer customization, flexibility and compatibility. As a district in the state of California, Natomas Unified sought a system that would allow them to collect the most accurate, real-time data available to meet all state reporting requirements.

Solution

Natomas Unified School District facilities are among the most modern in the state. Safe, clean campuses include state-of-the-art technology, libraries, gymnasiums, theaters, stadiums, and a swimming pool. With the best learning environment for students, the district needed a student information solution to meet that same level of excellence – and the solution was found in their own backyard.



“POWERSCHOOL PREMIER IS A FAVORITE AMONG ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE DISTRICT, BUT PARTICULARLY AMONG PARENTS AND TEACHERS”

Catherine Hamilton, Natomas Unified School District database specialist

PowerSchool Premier, the first student information system designed from the ground up as a web-based solution, is a product of the school systems group of Pearson, which is located in nearby Rancho Cordova, California. In 2000, the Natomas Unified School District chose to upgrade to the PowerSchool solution. At the time of implementation, each school within the district was using its own servers which would require separate upgrades. With this customized web-based solution, Natomas Unified could combine and automate critical functions like attendance, complex scheduling, classroom grading, and reporting through a single centralized relational database to accommodate the unique growth of the district.

Most importantly, PowerSchool enabled Natomas Unified to choose the integrated teacher grade book and parental portal -- an intricate mix of technology solutions that have a prescribed action and outcome. Whether inside or out of the classroom, Natomas Unified teachers would have online access to schedules, grades, homework, and attendance information making it easier for parents and teachers to stay in close contact with student progress through PowerTeacher, Pearson's web gradebook and teacher tool set. The parent portal created an opportunity for Natomas parents and students to access real-time



**THE DISTRICT HAS BEEN ABLE TO MEET ALL STATE
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS WITH THE PUSH OF
A BUTTON**

information that would keep students engaged in their assignments and parents fully aware of their children's progress.

Benefits

“PowerSchool Premier is a favorite among all stakeholders in the district, but particularly among parents and teachers,” said Catherine Hamilton, Natomas Unified School District database specialist. “The parent portal has transformed the collaborative process among parents and teachers, enabling them to focus on the crux of the student information system – student performance and achievement.”

Today, PowerSchool Premier plays a lead role in the Natomas Unified School District. The district has been able to meet all state reporting requirements with the push of a button. Teachers are fully engaged in PowerTeacher; administrators are pulling district level real-time, on-time data whenever, wherever it is needed; and parents and students are now active participants in student performance and progress.

The district has been able to customize its PowerSchool Premier system to meet its businesses processes and build it to function around the district's own needs. The flexibility of the system has been embraced by all users from the secretarial staff and teachers to parents and students.

Pearson believes that choosing the appropriate technology infrastructure will be critical to the future success of today's schools and districts, and Natomas Unified has become a great example of this. Their performance infrastructure has gone well beyond the delivery of information in support of better, more timely decisions that impact student achievement. PowerSchool has enabled Natomas Unified the choice to take education technology beyond its limits and empower student, teacher and school performance in the district as never before.

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.