

The ABCs of a Comprehensive School Solution

Every school district makes decisions with one purpose in mind: to promote the highest levels of student achievement. But school districts are complex entities, comprised of a wide variety of moving parts. It takes a lot of effort and attention to detail to keep a school district humming along towards that ultimate objective.

School districts today are chasing that goal by leveraging technology that allows them to work smarter. Specifically, they're choosing integrated school software solutions — that is, software solutions from a single vendor that are designed to work together and serve every area of school management. Implementing a school-wide comprehensive software solution can empower a district in several distinct ways. Let's call these the “ABCs of a Comprehensive School Solution.”



Access to data

Too often, school business personnel are held prisoner by the limited functionality of their software. Without the proper tools for searching or working with system data, employees can't get to vital accounting information, reporting becomes a convoluted process, and generating custom data and reports is almost impossible.

With the right comprehensive software, however, districts are finding that they can accomplish these tasks much more efficiently. When integrated software is used throughout an entire school district, departments have easy access to real-time information via a centralized database. Departments can access the information they need from other departments through the click of a mouse, eliminating the need for manual data entry and requests for information.

With integrated software, customized reports — a thorn in the side of school business personnel everywhere — are simple and easy to generate. Instead of spending hours manually creating reports, districts can use software that offers the flexibility to drill down to the data that's needed. The information can be compiled in easy-to-use reports or exported to third-party apps like Microsoft® Excel® for analytics that use pivot tables, charts, and graphs.

You see, the key is to empower your district's employees to access the information they need, regardless of department. When all departments have real-time visibility into a centralized, school-wide database, districts can minimize delays, strengthen decision making, and save time.

Budget friendly

Using a single software vendor for a comprehensive school solution not only impacts daily processes in a positive way, but it also has a direct effect on your district's bottom line. Some companies offer discounts with the purchase of multiple products while offering coverage under one service contract. Financially stable vendors provide ongoing development solutions to deliver ROI, while cloud-based solutions deliver savings on hardware and personnel expenses. Additionally, the benefits of using these solutions can add extra financial relief.

Take, for instance, paper usage. When all departments are using the same software vendor, the need for keeping and filing paper records decreases exponentially. Since everyone can access real-time information from a centralized database, paper becomes much less of a burden.

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Think about it: when all the information you need is at your fingertips, there's no need to request paper reports and records from other departments. Employees can even access important documents like W-2s and paystubs through online portals, which eliminates printing costs and extra legwork for HR staff.

Collaboration between departments

An education system is comprised of many distinct functional areas: the classroom, the business office, the transportation department, the superintendent's office and so on. Together, they are a system — a set of interacting entities with deep relationships that form an integrated enterprise. Therein lies the advantage of a comprehensive school solution: the ability to provide dynamic data integration between multiple departments.

Applications that share data across departments create a significant reduction in redundant data entry and tasks. Analytic tools can aggregate financial, student transportation, and workforce data to provide an enterprise view of everything from budget versus costs per student to customized reports. This information can be delivered in a quick and consumable format to the proper constituents, all without manually searching for or entering data.

The fact is, when departments can collaborate and work together, they can improve efficiency in virtually every area of school management. If each department can reach new levels of achievement, then so can the people who matter most: the students.

We've only scratched the surface of the powerful impact integrated school solutions can have on school districts. To find out how your district can reap the benefits, contact us at info@tylertech.com or give us a call at 888.654.3293.