



Challenge

The Plainedge Union Free School District (Plainedge), located just east of New York City in Nassau County, wanted to further integrate its assessment, data management, and curriculum applications. The district wanted to provide students with not just interactive curriculum, but differentiated instruction.

With 3,500 students distributed across three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school, Plainedge is no stranger to the increasing use of technology.

Over the last several years, Plainedge has centralized its management of student records using Pearson’s PowerSchool® student information system (SIS), which supports New York state reporting requirements. Additionally, to standardize data communication, as well as cafeteria and library management applications, in 2006 Plainedge installed the Pearson Edustructures SIFWorks® Enterprise Zone Integration Server (ZIS), which provides Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF®) compatibility for district-wide applications.

Based on this solid foundation, Plainedge envisioned further integration of its technology environment by tying in student assessment, data management, and curriculum applications and solutions.

Like most school districts these days, Plainedge was using multiple student assessment and performance data management reporting applications that did not connect with SIS data. Plainedge teachers were employing a variety of online and offline means to provide students with 21st century interactive curriculum, but they lacked a central location and a common mechanism to deliver these materials.

Meanwhile, Plainedge teachers were looking for the means to deliver differentiated instruction. “One of the nightmares that we have in public education is that you have 29 students and 40 minutes. How do you differentiate instruction? How do you reach the struggling learner? How do you provide enrichment for the really terrific kid on the top? How do you reach them all as



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Cynthia LaPier, District Chief Information Officer

individuals? It’s difficult to do in a regular classroom period.” Observes David Schutz, Plainedge High School Honors Biology, Regents Biology, and Engineering teacher.

Solution

After reviewing possible options, Plainedge elected to work with Pearson as a member of its Product Advisory Board to help develop a solution to meet immediate and long-term instructional goals. This solution, PowerSchool – Studio Edition, reflects years of careful development, as well as the input of many US educators, including those from Plainedge.

PowerSchool – Studio Edition integrates multiple education solutions, including assessment management, information systems, and course management, into one comprehensive platform. By providing the first connected learning environment created specifically for K-12 education, PowerSchool – Studio Edition connects the dots between student data and student learning, providing students with personalized education.

PowerSchool – Studio Edition provides Plainedge with a comprehensive educational platform that integrates the district’s technology environment and delivers real-time educational assessment and performance data reporting. In addition, PowerSchool – Studio Edition enables teachers to take specific action based on this information and provide true personalized instruction to their classes and individual students.

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Benefits

By bringing together formative, summative, and high stakes assessment information through PowerSchool – Studio Edition, Plainedge administrators and teachers can identify and measure student performance across classrooms, across the district, and across the state, enabling quick action to improve outcomes and report progress. Plainedge benefits from immediate visibility into student performance data, allowing school leaders to continually improve outcomes. As Plainedge Middle School Principal Tony DeRiso explains, “I simply log into PowerSchool – Studio Edition and go to the performance data portal. I can see with a few clicks of the mouse exactly which students I need to be concerned with and that they are getting the proper interventions.”

Based on student needs, Plainedge teachers gain immediate access to student performance results and have the ability to make necessary adjustments to provide relevant, personalized learning experiences to enhance student success. PowerSchool – Studio Edition also saves valuable time. As David Schutz puts it, “PowerSchool – Studio Edition basically lets me be in two places at once. I’m in the classroom, and I do all those things that are necessary in the classroom. And then, in addition to that, I can be challenging the students at night when they’re at home on PowerSchool – Studio Edition, and I’m doing something else.”

Says Cynthia LaPier, District Chief Information Officer, “Our district currently uses Pearson PowerSchool as well as standards-based assessment and reporting tools to inform teachers and administrators about student progress and to identify areas requiring remediation. We are enthusiastic that PowerSchool – Studio Edition has brought these solutions together onto one portal-based platform which allows us to also manage and match our content and curriculum to student needs.” Administrators using PowerSchool – Studio Edition realize increased efficiencies and an easy-to-use interface that requires little internal resources, creating more time to focus on district and school performance while maximizing existing technology investments.

Students and parents benefit from PowerSchool – Studio Edition as well. Students can track their own progress through online access to coursework exams and results. Parents benefit from immediate and ongoing insight into student performance and enhanced communication and collaboration with teachers.

PowerSchool – Studio Edition, designed and developed with K-12 educators in mind, embraces everyone involved in the education process. To learn more about PowerSchool – Studio Edition, please visit www.PearsonSchoolSystems.com.

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