

POWER Boost: Miami Oklahoma School District Realizes Increased Efficiencies and Accountability With Pearson's PowerSchool Student Information System

“Before implementing Pearson's PowerSchool SIS, we were severely lagging from a technology standpoint. With PowerSchool, our district went from zero to one hundred in less than a month! PowerSchool is an integral part of our everyday lives at Miami School District!”

Scott Harris,
Technology Director

CHALLENGE

Miami Oklahoma School District (Miami SD), in Miami, OK, has been a Pearson customer – utilizing the PowerSchool Student Information System (SIS) – for five years. The district – consisting of more than 2,500 students and 250 faculty members – prides itself on being an early adopter of technologies and benefits from a superintendent who truly appreciates the value of technology as it relates to education. However, in 2002, the district found itself struggling with inefficient and disparate systems for reporting, scheduling, and attendance in the face of a steadily increasing amount of student data. In addition to tracking grades and attendance, the district required schools to track information such as demographics, contacts, medical events and conditions, discipline and language, and more. Miami SD set out to find a comprehensive student information system that could address their specific needs and technical requirements. Topping their list was the need for a web-based SIS. The district understood the potential benefits of providing faculty with anytime, anywhere access to student data, as well as the ability to gather and store data in a central location, enabling seamless information sharing between the various schools in the district.

SOLUTION

After Superintendent Bill Stephens and Technology Director, Scott Harris viewed a PowerSchool demonstration; Superintendent Stephens recommended to the board that Miami SD conduct a full-scale implementation of PowerSchool. They subsequently became the first public school in Northeast Oklahoma to adopt the technology. Chief among their reasons for selecting PowerSchool was the fact that it was architected from the ground up, as a web-based, universal platform solution. This provided Miami SD with the anywhere, anytime data access they desired, as well as a more efficient means of generating district wide reports, regardless of a user's browser or operating system.

BENEFIT

Miami SD enthusiastically launched PowerSchool in the district, leveraging every aspect of the system within the first year, including PowerLunch, Standards Reporting, and Parent Access. PowerSchool's easy-to-use communication tools made it simple for Miami School District 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— creating 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.

With PowerSchool, Miami SD 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 elevated Miami School District's reporting processes beyond standard administrative reporting, allowing them to use the data gathered to positively impact student achievement across their entire district.

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