

Transforming the Student Learning Experience with Technology

Imagine a world where education is seamless and free-flowing – a world where a student's academic career is united with their own life and tailored to their individual needs. In this world, the educational experience is always on, tailored to fit diverse people, learning styles, and ways of interacting with the world. Teachers and parents have a direct line of sight to what their students are learning, how well they are achieving, and even a glimpse into the prospects of each students' academic and professional future. Students are engaged and eager to learn – and outcomes for them are better than historical norms.

While it may seem like a dream, advanced technology puts this paradigm within reach.

As technology saturates lives, communities, industries, and governments around the world, demands for a fully-connected, service-led digital experience in all walks of life are accelerating. The **education space is not immune to this dramatic shift in expectations**, and K-12 school boards are being asked to transform the learning experience. Today's legacy K-12 systems are simply not up to the task and is a critical constraint, but it is also an opportunity.

New education technology ecosystems that securely unify education applications into one user experience foster greater interaction between teachers, students and parents. In doing so, these systems enable full transparency, with shared assignments, ideas and feedback in real time as well as collaboration opportunities and communications between parents, teachers and faculty. These interactions help **create new learning opportunities with targeted lesson-specific direction**, while providing direct and instant feedback. Parents, teachers, and school administrators can enjoy the benefits of precise, efficient and paperless mechanisms for reporting, soliciting and providing feedback, as well as provide timely support and intervention.

Perhaps the greatest advantage of unified education systems is the opportunity to leverage the vast amounts of data they generate. **Educators can pull data sets, analyze information, and create more customized teaching methods based on individual student needs and performance levels.** Data also is an excellent predictor of future growth and trends, helping school boards plan curriculum needs, identify opportunities for improvement and best practice, and establish intervention services.

Undergoing a digital transformation of this magnitude requires time and careful planning. Those that make the leap will have to navigate some big questions such as:

- How can we balance the need for new technology, connectivity and security in the context of tight budgets?
- How can we help educators, who are uncomfortable with technology, to adopt a new approach?
- How can we create a truly integrated system when districts and schools often operate independently through a myriad of disparate systems? Will we compromise value if our system lacks comprehensive integration?

All of these barriers can be overcome with the right partners. Systems integration partners, who are accustomed to modernizing and integrating various platforms and applications, can develop and implement unified student information and others systems that not only addresses technology issues, but also ease the financial and emotional burden that comes with change management of this magnitude.

Having the right data available is becoming a cornerstone for improving student-learning outcomes. Schools may have the finest educators and administrators, students who are eager to learn, and high quality books, tools and technology, but if those resources aren't connected by a solid and holistic digital strategy, they are missing a significant opportunity to advance the academic experience.

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