



## Challenge

EduTech of North Dakota is responsible for providing educators and students in North Dakota with opportunities that extend learning in the classroom and focus on the use of technology to improve student achievement.

In 2002, each district in the state was responsible for selecting a student information system solution that would best meet the needs and challenges of their district. In an effort to centralize these solutions and create a more cost effective structure, the districts turned to the North Dakota Information Technology Department (ITD), a state agency funded by the North Dakota Legislature.

In partnership with 96 districts – half of the districts in the state of North Dakota – North Dakota ITD initiated a search for the right technology solution. Since each district had its own unique set of traditions, processes, and systems, North Dakota ITD needed to find a web-based, customizable solution that could meet all of their needs, particularly those of the 54,000 students in the districts.

With the right student information system, these North Dakota schools could better address the challenges of achievement, reporting, growth and scalability, while powering the performance of each constituent in today's educational landscape – from administrators and teachers to parents and students.

## Solution

After an intensive search and evaluation period, North Dakota ITD selected PowerSchool as the new technology infrastructure for the 90+ schools in the district. PowerSchool is the first student information system designed specifically as a web-based solution, which offers easy access, real-time data via a standard web browser, on a Macintosh or Windows PC for K-12 districts.



**“EDUTECH’S IMPLEMENTATION OF POWERSCHOOL HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL FOR MORE THAN 90 SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN NORTH DAKOTA”**

*Don Simon, Director of PowerSchool for EduTech*

EduTech, which is funded by the ITD, worked in tandem with North Dakota ITD on the project and provided the implementation, training and ongoing support services for PowerSchool upon the final selection of the solution. The implementation began with a pilot for six schools. Following a series of training sessions, the Pearson solution was launched in 96 school districts.

EduTech recommended the integration of a parent portal for the system, which ensured that each school and district could engage and communicate with parents whenever and wherever they needed. PowerTeacher, Pearson's web-based grade book for teachers, was also launched successfully in several districts and will continue its roll-out in the remaining districts over the next school year. The gradebook will simplify the tasks that teachers perform daily by taking attendance, entering grades, initiating student and parent communication, posting assignments, and assessing student alerts and demographic information. Most importantly, PowerTeacher enables teachers to focus on teaching instead of administrative tasks, which is vital to powering student performance in the classroom.



**AS A RESULT OF THE PARENT PORTAL, EDUTECH OF NORTH DAKOTA HAS EXPERIENCED A HUGE INCREASE IN PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICTS**

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Since the inception of the system, EduTech continues to host dozens of workshops from end-of-year reports to web grade book training for all of the districts. In addition, EduTech has established a PowerSchool Blog for users to discuss key functions like attendance, grading, parent/student portal, scheduling, and the PowerTeacher grade book.

**Benefits**

“EduTech’s implementation of PowerSchool has been very successful for more than 90 school districts in North Dakota,” said Don Simon, Director of PowerSchool for EduTech. “From easy navigation and a user-friendly interface to accurate reporting and more efficient data comparisons, we’ve enabled these districts to build the best technology infrastructure possible.”

As a result of the parent portal, EduTech of North Dakota has experienced a huge increase in parental involvement within the districts. With parents fully engaged in the new portal, students are also demonstrating a much stronger interest in

their own performance by regularly checking their grades and performance. Parents now have access to school/home communications, student activities, lunch menus, lunch and activity balance and fees. During certain periods of the school year, parents and students at the secondary level can even use the portal to review and request course electives for the next school year. Since August 2007, more than 1.7 million students and parents have accessed the parent portal for updates on student performance. On average, nearly 40% of parents are regularly using the portal to check student grades and attendance.

EduTech’s commitment to the success of the PowerSchool solution thrives with the PowerSchool Blog and a growing calendar of key training workshops. This approach continues to positively impact parent/teacher collaboration and student performance across the state.

Pearson believes that choosing the appropriate technology infrastructure will be critical to the future success of today’s schools and districts, and EduTech’s vision for North Dakota districts is a great example of this. This performance infrastructure has gone well beyond the delivery of information in support of better, timelier decisions that impact student achievement. PowerSchool has enabled these districts the choice to take education technology beyond its limits and empower student, teacher and school performance 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.