



## Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Builds Collaborative Network with PowerSchool® Premier



### Challenge

With more than 13,000 students, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in Indiana decided it needed an interoperable technology solution to manage the growing data, reporting, and communication needs for administrators, teachers, parents and students within the school district.

The diocese was faced with two primary challenges – finding a way to engage parents in student performance and interact with teachers and improving communication within the diocese, which spans across 14 counties in northeastern Indiana.

In 2005, the diocese initiated a search for its first web-based student information system (SIS) – a solution that could meet the unique communication needs and geographic challenges of the district and ultimately enable them to 1) build a collaborative environment among teachers, parents and students; 2) deliver an easy-to-use solution that opens up the line of communication among different schools across the counties; and 3) provide end-users with an easy-to-use system with customizable features for the diocese.

### Solution

The integration of PowerSchool Premier, the first student information system designed from the ground up as a web-based solution, created the diocese's first district-wide forum for principals and schools to collaborate and communicate on a regular, more timely basis.

With easy access to real-time data and student performance updates through the parent portal feature, teachers could finally begin to better engage and communicate with parents. In turn, diocese parents could begin to get more involved in their children's academic progress and attendance reporting, which continues to impact student achievement in districts across the U.S.

“PowerSchool Premier is our first experience with a student information system and it has enabled us to build a truly collaborative network between schools, teachers, parents, and students,” said Lorenzo Lopez, Director of Technology, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. “From administrative staff to parents, the entire diocese has been impacted by the benefits of PowerSchool.”

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## Benefits

PowerSchool Premier has been a great success for all stakeholders in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. From end-users who enjoy the customized, easy-to-use system to parents who can engage in student performance whenever, wherever they are, PowerSchool Premier has been a valuable addition to the diocese.

The real-time, automatic web-based grade book has enabled the diocese to manage attendance and reporting, which has resulted in improved attendance records among students in the 14 counties within the diocese. With parents fully engaged in the new parent portal, students are also demonstrating a much stronger interest in their own performance by regularly checking their grades and performance.

The new system has also impacted revenues for the diocese as well. Prior to the implementation, many schools had experienced a tuition loss because schools were not able to maintain sufficient student records. Today, the schools are gaining revenues with the ability to accurately and efficiently track all records.

Above all, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is focused on student performance and PowerSchool has enabled the diocese to measure student performance as never before.

While monitoring, reporting and attendance are all important features for the schools, student achievement – and the ability to positively impact student achievement – has clearly proven to be the most valuable benefit to the diocese as they continue to empower all constituents within the district with the PowerSchool Premier solution.

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