SAS® OnDemand for K-12

SAS satisfies your reporting needs with a hosted solution for K-12

Along with the demand for rigorous measurement of effectiveness and strategic allocation of resources, state and federal mandates (such as the No Child Left Behind Act) require improvements in student achievement, operational effectiveness, fiscal responsibility and transparency in performance reporting.

Data residing in many siloed systems across a district, many of which are legacy and custom systems that cannot scale or be altered for various audiences, hinder progress. Executive staff within the district need centralized reporting that can provide one version of the truth at any given point in time. These challenges can be solved with SAS® OnDemand for K-12, which offers a hosted environment that provides education professionals with the critical, timely and reliable information they need to make proactive, evidence-based decisions.

Key benefits

- **Consolidate and centralize with Web-based reporting.** Without affecting the IT infrastructure or requiring additional headcount, SAS OnDemand for K-12 consolidates, cleans, organizes and reports all the various data sources in the district to provide a centralized, single source of information.

- **Expand IT reach with minimal investment and significant ROI to create more value through hosting.** By using a hosted solution, the district will not need to purchase expensive hardware and hire staff to support it. With the help of a single data administrator in the district and some guidance from the superintendent’s staff, SAS takes over the bulk of data cleansing, consolidation, analysis and reporting activities, leaving the district to focus its time on improving the quality of education.

- **Empower district executives with concrete evidence to support decision making.** SAS OnDemand for K-12 gives the district access to an administrative executive dashboard that pulls together the many data sources within the district and consolidates, cleans and reports the most common and critical data elements of running a school. Through a user-friendly and secure Web portal, district personnel can easily view trends and outliers in their data to pinpoint problems as they occur.

Solution overview

A solution that was developed and created with superintendents to solve their most pressing challenges, SAS OnDemand for K-12 provides cost-effective, immediate Web access to your district’s data with minimal hardware and staff to get up and running. K-12 school leaders can have key views and insights into the “business” of running an effective and efficient school district, and the ability to be proactively responsive in state and federal reporting.

The secure, hosted solution enables users to view the district as a whole or drill down into increasing levels of granularity to the individual student. Users can monitor performance benchmarks customized for their school or district for greater transparency and to enable more timely fact-based decisions and interventions with students. With SAS, you can take advantage of sophisticated data analysis by using powerful analytics to query and report on select operational measures, including student and administrative data.
Hosted solution
With dwindling resources and shrinking budgets, school districts lack the resources for high up-front technology costs. As a cost-effective alternative requiring only a Web browser for access, SAS OnDemand solutions can be quickly implemented and have minimal hardware and staffing requirements.

Sophisticated data analysis
Going beyond static reports, which are often out of date by the time they are received, SAS provides award-winning data integration, analytics and reporting technologies to address your most critical issues and enable the strategic decisions that optimize performance across your district. District leaders can view trends and patterns in discipline and attendance that give them the insight needed to make proactive decisions.

Customized benchmarking
In addition to the standard set of KPIs provided, SAS allows you to set your own ranges so that district-specific KPIs can be measured and tracked. Measure your overall effectiveness and strategically allocate resources to address current and emerging needs that are unique to your district.

Stability and investment in R&D
Each year, SAS invests a significant percentage of its annual revenue – 22 percent in 2008 – back into research and development to ensure continual innovation in products and technology. And as a stable company in business since 1976, SAS has a solid track record as a reliable partner who will provide updates and ongoing support no matter how your education and administrative needs grow and change.

Partnership and collaboration with education
The SAS solution was developed using collaborative input from K-12 district superintendents. This domain expertise ensures that the administrative challenges you face have been thoroughly addressed in the software.
Technical requirements

District data

- Samples of data for all requested measures exist at either the district or state level.
  - Data must be able to be accessed and converted into the template provided by SAS for all associated measures.
  - If district-specific codes are used for school identification, you must provide a reliable data index or dictionary.

- Preferred file formats: SAS data file, Excel, CSV or TXT.

- At a minimum, all data must be classified by grade and school.
  - If a district chooses to send student-level data, the student information must be de-identified and comply with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
  - A district cannot send personally identifiable information (PII) as part of its data upload.
  - No social security numbers, first names or last names are permitted. This restriction of PII data also pertains to all other data that is uploaded to SAS (including teacher attendance data and financial data).

Client environment

Windows (x86-32):
- Windows XP Professional.
- Windows 2000 Professional.
- Windows NT.

Web browser:
- Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher.

Please contact your SAS representative for further information on technical requirements.

Key Features

Student Attendance Performance

- Absences and leaves by type, by month with running counts.
- Attendance information provided at both district and school levels.
- Top student absences by school.

Student Discipline Performance

- Drill down to unique students and show their trends over several months and/or years.
- Details on infractions by district with drill-down capability to the school and grade levels.
- Trend of infractions over the school year by district with drill-down capability to the school and grade levels.
- Cumulative report of infractions by grade.
- Top schools with the most infractions.

Teacher Attendance Performance

- Absence information provided at the district and school levels.
- Absences and leaves by type, month and day with running counts.
- Top teacher absences by school.

Enrollment Across District by Gender and Demographics

- Total number of students with drill-down capability by school, grade and gender for every month of the school year.
- Percent of students per demographic type.

District Financial Tracking

- Top five year-to-date school expenses.
- Local, state and federal dials that show the current budget for each type of funding.
- Current year’s expenditures versus overall budget.
- Year-to-date expenses by funding type (local, state or federal).
- Top 20 funding descriptions by type of funding (local, state or federal).

Dials indicate the status of district-defined parameters for each school.
About SAS

SAS is the leader in business analytics software and services, and the largest independent vendor in the business intelligence market. Through innovative solutions delivered within an integrated framework, SAS helps customers at more than 45,000 sites improve performance and deliver value by making better decisions faster. For nearly three decades, SAS has been giving retail organizations THE POWER TO KNOW®.

Drill-down graphs provide a detailed display of teacher attendance.

Four synchronized, drill-down graphs represent measures a district is tracking.
**Business Impact**

“SAS OnDemand for K-12 is a solution that gives me quick insights into key data about my school district and lets me drill down into the data when I need to know more. This is a tool that every superintendent needs.”

– Larry E. Price, PhD
Superintendent, Wilson County School District
Wilson, NC

**Challenges**

- **Lack of data integration.** There’s an abundance of valuable data, but without centralized data, reporting and associated methodologies, there’s no way to access or make sense of it all.

- **Shortage of useful information.** Limited staff resources don’t have the time, technologies or skill sets needed to turn volumes of data into information that could be used for evidence-based decision making.

- **Resource and funding constraints.** Budget cuts have meant tight funding and insufficient staff available for IT initiatives.

- **Reporting and transparency requirements.** Local, state and federal initiatives have magnified the huge burden of performance reporting, along with demands for transparency.

**How can we use district data to improve our efficiency, performance and student learning?**

**YOUR GOAL:** Empower administrators to make informed, proactive decisions

K-12 districts wrestle with growing, increasingly diverse student populations and higher expectations for student performance while simultaneously struggling to do more with less in the face of dwindling resources and shrinking budgets. Adding to this complexity are state and federal mandates, such as the No Child Left Behind Act, which call for improvements in student achievement, operational effectiveness and fiscal responsibility. Unfortunately, many districts lack the ability to measure their overall effectiveness or strategically allocate resources to address current and emerging needs.

In addition, access to federally funded programs, grants and/or private funding for educational initiatives is often dependent on timely, reliable data and reports. But while every district has scores of data – on staff and student attendance, discipline infractions, financial performance, test scores, etc. – so much time is spent trying to get the information that there’s little time left for things like staff development or curriculum enrichment practices. As such, trends go undetected, funding is lost and issues don’t get addressed as quickly as they should be.

**OUR APPROACH**

The vast amounts of data captured by school districts are often stored in multiple locations that cannot be easily accessed. With limited resources and budgets for administrative technology, superintendents find themselves unable to quickly get the district information they need in order to make strategic decisions that can benefit the district and students. SAS approaches the problem by delivering software and services to help you:

- **Consolidate, cleanse and organize all district data sources into a single, centralized information source,** without affecting the IT infrastructure or requiring additional headcount.
  - Expands IT reach with minimal investment and significant ROI to create more value through hosting.
  - Eliminates the need to purchase expensive hardware and hire staff to support data integration, analysis and reporting.

- **Empower district executives with concrete evidence** to support strategic decision making.
  - Gives district executives direct access to an administrative executive dashboard that reports on the most common and critical data elements of running a school.

With the help of a single data administrator in the district and some guidance from the superintendent’s staff, SAS® takes over the bulk of the reporting, consolidating, cleansing and analysis of your district’s data, leaving district personnel to focus their time on improving the quality of education.
THE SAS® DIFFERENCE: Maximum benefit with minimal investment

Developed and created with school districts to solve their most pressing challenges, SAS OnDemand for K-12 enables you to reap the benefits of:

- **A hosted solution** – Get cost-effective, immediate access to your district’s data via a fully integrated, easy-to-use Web-based portal. Drill-down capabilities let you delve into increasing levels of granularity — down to the individual student. And you can get up and running fast, with minimal hardware and staff required.

- **Sophisticated data analysis** – Award-winning SAS data integration, analytics and reporting address your most critical issues, enabling you to view trends and patterns that provide the insight needed to make proactive, forward-looking decisions.

- **Customized benchmarking** – In addition to providing standard KPIs, SAS lets you set your own ranges so you can track district-specific KPIs to measure overall effectiveness and strategically allocate resources to address current and emerging needs.

- **Partnership and collaboration** – The SAS solution was developed with collaborative input from superintendents. This domain expertise helps ensure that the software thoroughly addresses the administrative challenges you face. In business since 1976, SAS has a solid track record as a reliable partner who will provide updates and ongoing support no matter how your district’s needs grow and change.

In addition, the SAS solution is completely integrated, ensuring a consistent flow of information without the need to consolidate incompatible systems to handle each step.

CASE STUDY: Wilson County School District, Wilson County, NC

**Situation**

District leaders were under enormous pressure to improve the quality of education while maintaining a balanced budget and complying with local, state and federal mandates. The district was “data-rich but information-poor,” and measuring and tracking qualitative outcomes against pre-established benchmarks had become impractical. Reports on key metrics such as student and teacher absences, discipline infractions, budget information and test scores were only available at the end of the school year or later, which made proactive intervention impossible.

**Solution**

SAS delivered a secure, hosted solution that included:

- A centralized Web portal that gives immediate access to operational measures and select student and administrative data.

- The ability to measure and identify trends using specific key performance indicators to provide benchmarks and guidance for real-time intervention.

**Result**

School leaders now have key views and insights into the “business” of running an effective and efficient school district.

![The Vision]

**Easy-to-use interface**

What if you had immediate Web access to key data and reports — on attendance, financials, discipline, etc.?

**Macro to micro view**

What if you could view district information as a whole, then isolate the view to a targeted school and grade, and drill down further to the individual student level?

**Sophisticated analysis**

What if district leaders could not only access basic reporting, but also view the trends and patterns that would enable them to make proactive decisions?

**Customized benchmarks**

What if you could compare your district’s performance against customized benchmarks so you could determine, at any time, whether or not an intervention were needed?

**Hosted solution**

What if someone else took over consolidating, analyzing and reporting on your data — leaving you the time to focus on improving the quality of education in your district?

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SAS FACTS

- SAS® solutions are licensed and implemented at more than 2,000 educational institutions worldwide.

- For more than 30 years, SAS has delivered the latest technology to educational institutions worldwide.

- Each year, SAS invests a significant percentage of its annual revenue — 22 percent in 2008 — back into research and development to ensure continual innovation.

Learn more about SAS software and services for education at: www.sas.com/govedu/edu/