Every student counts

Fostering success in primary and secondary education

Every year in primary and secondary schools, some students will excel and most will pass, but some will also fail.

Because better educational outcomes usually lead to more productive, enlightened and happy community members, most kindergarten to grade 12 educators do everything within their reach to minimize failure while maintaining educational standards.

But first, educators must understand why some students are failing where others succeed. While it's clear that such factors as teacher excellence, a safe school and high attendance all contribute to positive outcomes, how can schools ensure these are all in place?

Studying performance

Boards and districts can start solving this puzzle by looking into their own numbers and asking the right questions.

- Which programs or other factors lead to student success?
- Which investments are improving results and how much more can we invest?
- What are the leading indicators of low performance?

Good teachers and principals instinctively know the answers to these questions, but too often lack the time and resources to follow an individual student's progress across subjects from year to year in relation to her peers.

Beyond test scores

In fact, such analysis is currently beyond most schools, districts and boards, who might still struggle to report student test scores for reading and math. Student, teacher and financial data may be in many different databases or spreadsheets.

This makes it nearly impossible to know student- or district-level performance, to analyze the success of new initiatives, to track attendance or to evaluate teacher or curriculum success. So how do schools sift through their data to boost student success?

Performance management for education

Cognos, an IBM company, offers a solution specifically for educational organizations, school districts and schools to help them make sense of and report on educational performance data.

Cognos performance management software unites data from all of your current systems into one reliable and consistent data source. This single platform lets you track and analyze student, teacher or financial trends, by district, by student, by teacher, over years or over days—however you choose to look.
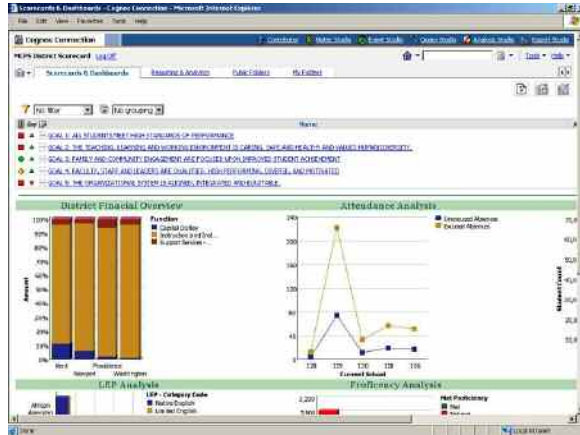
In partnership with education leaders, we have created pre-built models, scorecards, reports and a dimensional data warehouse optimized for educational organizations. The rapid implementation framework we developed with our channel partner, the DecisionEd Group, takes you from initial planning through to post implementation training.

In three to five weeks, your organization can begin using Cognos to:

1. **Monitor key metrics with a scorecard.** Whether your main concern is grade 11 attendance, test results in language immersion or disciplinary actions in your most vulnerable school, you set up your scorecard to follow the metrics most important to your goals. Drill down from a metric to a detailed report.

2. **Analyze and report on trends across diverse areas.** The data uniformity in the Cognos system lets you understand trends across complex data sets such as student results, finance and staff training. It lets you communicate your findings in a single report that can meet multiple user needs.

3. **Match your financial resources to your goals.** Cognos budgeting and planning software lets you define goals, create models and disseminate strategies. It lets you track the success of programs against funding allocations.

COGNOS®

Show results

Using the combined power of scorecards, reports, analysis, budgeting and planning available within a single tool, educational organizations can make sense of complex, multidimensional data and meet your most pressing challenges.

This district scorecard lets you follow such critical metrics as progress against strategic goals, spending and attendance, and drill down to details on each metric.

Tracking student performance

View the performance of a student or student group across multiple testing events. Compare student, school, district or board and national marks. View and track progress by cohort, teacher, course or program.

Monitoring for signs of struggle

Monitor performance thresholds to mitigate failure. Analyze possible contributing factors to low performance such as disciplinary actions or attendance patterns and plan for proactive intervention strategies.

Reporting up

Analyze student performance by demographic such as gender, economic status, language proficiency or disability. Easily meet regular reporting demands through standard reports that meet many different user needs.

Developing teachers

Tie student, school and teacher information together to determine the best training options for teachers. Linking professional development with improved student results can enrich both teacher and student experience.

Following expenditures

Use Cognos budgeting, planning and forecasting to follow expenditures throughout the year. Track the complex relationship between investment and performance by tying financial data to key performance indicators. Turn strategies into measurable goals.

Proven solutions

Because schools strive to maintain high student performance while dealing with budget ebb and flow, efficiency and cost reduction are often on the table. With education performance management from Cognos, education proponents are finding an all encompassing, cost effective solution to these goals.

Approximately 4,000 school districts of all sizes and 18 departments of education worldwide rely on Cognos software to track the performance of over 10 million students. Seven of the top 20 school districts in the U.S. are monitoring, reporting and improving results using Cognos.

About Cognos, an IBM company

Cognos, an IBM company, is the world leader in business intelligence and performance management solutions. It provides world-class enterprise planning and BI software and services to help companies plan, understand and manage financial and operational performance. Cognos was acquired by IBM in January 2008. For more information, visit www.cognos.com.

For more Information

Visit the Cognos Web site at www.cognos.com

Request a Call

To request a call or ask a question, go to www.cognos.com/contactme. A Cognos representative will respond to your enquiry within two business days.

(07/08)

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