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Solution Brief

IBM

Highlights

- **Smarter classrooms** help students of all ages follow personalized learning paths which meet their educational and future job skill needs.

- **Innovation in research** helps create new knowledge and spur economic growth.

- **Smart administration** improves operational effectiveness and reduces costs for individual institutions and across entire educational systems.

The future of learning: Education for a smarter planet

Investing in tomorrow's worker with yesterday's technology?

It's no secret that schools from kindergarten through college are struggling in this difficult economy to maintain high educational standards, keep pace with technological changes and meet myriad operational challenges.

Even before the recent economic downturn school officials grappled with how to best ensure students got to graduation with the skills they needed to compete globally and to embrace technological innovation both in the classroom and administrative office.

An influx of federal economic stimulus funds earmarked for educational purposes is poised to help bolster U.S. state education initiatives, including technology solutions. But experts warn that simply dropping technology into schools and expecting their problems to disappear is tantamount to walking through a hospital and assuming you'll get healthy.
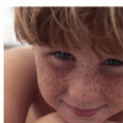
Today's schools and colleges invest more than 40% of their technology budget on PCs. IBM® has a proven track record for helping schools use those dollars smarter to boost students' success rates, drive research innovation and optimize operations.

Smarter classrooms, smarter schools

A smarter classroom is one specifically designed in response to the unique needs of a university, college or school. For example, are students getting access to the resources they need for their individual learning? Are there sufficient experts at each location to support existing and planned technology? IBM has a smarter classroom solution to help solve each problem. IBM smarter classroom components include:

Open education resources—Students, teachers and faculty need free and open access to tools and resources for learning and collaboration. IBM contributes to open source and standard communities and maintains partnerships with numerous open source learning system providers, including Lotus®, Moodle and Sakai.

Data analytics—Schools, school districts, universities and colleges use IBM Cognos® performance management software to help improve student outcomes, provide teachers and administrators with insights and deliver on accountability mandates.

Dynamic infrastructure—Even rural and geographically dispersed schools and universities can centralize their computing functions in a single location using emerging "cloud computing" technology. With this framework, applications are delivered from a central server to virtual desktops and netbooks (or thin clients), virtually eliminating computer installation and maintenance tasks from the classroom altogether.

By instituting a cloud computing framework and other IT education solutions, IBM recently enabled the Pike County, Kentucky school district in the Appalachian Mountains to boost the quality and consistency of their classroom computing technology while cutting their IT costs by more than 45 percent.

Fostering research, encouraging innovation

IBM offers breakthrough solutions for managing intense computation, visualization and manipulation of massive data that are designed to give institutions the competitive edge, including grid computing for university research collaboration and high-performance computing solutions. Additionally, IBM consults with community leadership to align their investment initiatives for sustainable economic growth to innovation strategies for research facilities, private industry incubators, internship programs and collaboration.

Doing more with less

With budgets, enrollment and the educational tax base all in decline, it's never been more important for schools and universities to minimize costs and optimize resources. IBM is implementing new ways of providing core services for human resources, financial management and student systems in more efficient ways. We are helping institutions collaborate and share resources.

Education and government officials are gaining new insights and making more informed decisions with IBM Cognos performance management dashboards and analytics. Likewise, IBM Maximo® for Utilities helps schools become more "green" and energy efficient by managing their assets and rein in water, gas and electricity costs.

Why IBM?

IBM is committed to providing K-12 and higher education with the solutions they need to increase access, lower costs and improve learning and administrative outcomes. Our knowledgeable IBM practitioners have extensive experience implementing the services and software for streamlined processes, modernized systems and expert data analytics.

IBM's innovative thought leadership can help transform today's educational systems to meet the demands of the 21st Century. Together we can create the Future of Learning! Contact us today for more information.

For more information

For more information, please contact your IBM Representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit: **ibm.com**/industries/education