Smart Schools:
3 Ways Your District Can Work Smarter

INDUSTRY INSIGHT

The world of education is changing. New technologies, new legislation and new methodologies have created a fast-paced environment that leaves behind anyone who doesn't keep up with the latest trends.

From data access and reporting to paperless workflows, the duties of today's school business officials look almost nothing like they did 20 years ago. The end goals of accuracy and accountability remain the same, but the paths to get there run through different technologies than they did before.

How can school business officials keep up in an environment where rapid evolution has become the new norm? Smart solutions were enough just a few years ago, but today's educators need *smarter* solutions. Using new technologies, school districts can stay on top of these three latest trends and work smarter to serve their constituents.

1 Reporting at Today's Pace

For old data, old solutions were enough. **Today's nonstop stream of information requires smarter solutions that move as quickly as the people who use them.**

School business officials rarely have the luxury of generating reports for just one department. Everyone needs accurate information, and it's up to the people who know the data best to deliver it. As software has evolved, the mass quantities of data it collects have created an expectation of instant visibility and usefulness. Today's reporting software has to be intuitive, doing the heavy lifting to schedule and build reports so the people skilled at analyzing data can spend less time extracting it and more time using it.

New technology allows employees to schedule reports ahead of time and send them automatically. Running, printing and delivering reports manually is becoming a relic of the past. In today's smart schools, reports are delivered in multiple formats, using automatic notification and delivery systems and improving collaboration between users through real-time updates and analysis. Today's information and reports are not static, but self-updating tools make analysis more accurate and communication simpler.

2 Workflows for Mobile Workforces

Early days of mobile technology meant long waits for even the simplest tasks. **The time-sensitive needs of today's schools require immediate responses, and people shouldn't need to stay glued to their desks to get work done.**

From council meetings to conferences, school business officials are often on the go. Approvals for leave requests, purchase orders and requisition orders shouldn't have to wait until they return to the office. Officials also need to know when something requires their attention, meaning email alerts and push notifications should be just as common for work as notifications from your social media account.

Advances in HTML5 and cloud-based technology can allow anyone to work from anywhere on any device, so there's never a disconnected moment. Smarter technologies allow today's busy professionals to attend personal events away from the office while staying connected. Workflows that had to rely on someone to be in a certain place at a certain time are becoming obsolete as technology sheds the constraints of yesterday and gives a new meaning to "out of the office."

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True Integrated Paperless

Moving from paper-laden to digital offices was a breakthrough, but today's paperless office doesn't always feel so paperless. Even modern offerings with full-featured content systems feel antiquated when the gap between content management and the document system requires manual scanning and attachment of documents to bridge.

Today's smarter paperless technology expands the concept of paperless beyond attached document files by infusing the data within the scanned document into the system. Using old methods, vendor records are a nightmare to locate. New systems read and adopt the data from scanned documents and make the information searchable and navigable. Compared to smarter modern offerings, the "smart" technologies of yesterday feel like nothing more than digital filing cabinets.

Newer, smarter software associates metadata to each document, allowing officials to search and retrieve document information simply by cross-referencing data in the system. No more filling out informational fields — the software does that on its own. Searching through file cabinets, both physical and electronic, is becoming a thing of the past as modern solutions create smart digital documents that know where they are and to which other files they're related. With the added ability to search data within these documents and drill down with accuracy, paperless workflows have never been more efficient.

School districts have always worked smart; now they work smarter. These three trends are just a handful of the many technological and strategic advances happening right now. If you'd like more information on how to help your district operate more efficiently, contact us as info@tylertech.com or visit us at **www.tylertech.com.**