

Closing the Gap

TURNING DATA INTO ACTION

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COMMUNITIES

Closing the Gap gives educators the resources they need to turn data into action to strengthen instructional practices.

- ▶ Reports based on broad input from the K-12 educational community including up-to-date information on student information systems (SIS) and learning management (LMS) software solutions.
- ▶ Best practices for implementing SIS/LMS software systems.
- ▶ Engaging online Communities of Practice (CoPs) to facilitate the use of project resources, share results, and learn from each other.



“This is a collaboration that will provide assistance to educators on the front lines. It does no good to talk about data-driven decisions if schools do not have the means to collect reliable data. CoSN and Gartner can provide teachers and administrators tools that are critical to making gains in individual classrooms.” *AASA Executive Director, Daniel A. Domenech*



Closing the Gap: Goals

- Understand the current state of SIS and LMS and how that data is being used in the classroom by teachers
- Districts and schools move beyond the current state of adoption practices to use SIS/LMS data to strengthen instructional practices.
- Fully engaged in the dialogue about best practices for selection and implementation of SIS/LMS to inform classroom practice

Closing the Gap: Resources

<http://www.turningdataintoaction.org>

- **February**

- ✓ Education Community Attitudes Toward SIS/LMS Solutions Report
- ✓ SIS/LMS Selection and Implementation Approaches Report
- ✓ Online Open and Closed Community of Practice

- **June**

- ✓ SIS/LMS Solutions Report

- **September**

- Selection and Implementation Assistance Templates and Frameworks
- Case Studies

- **October/November**

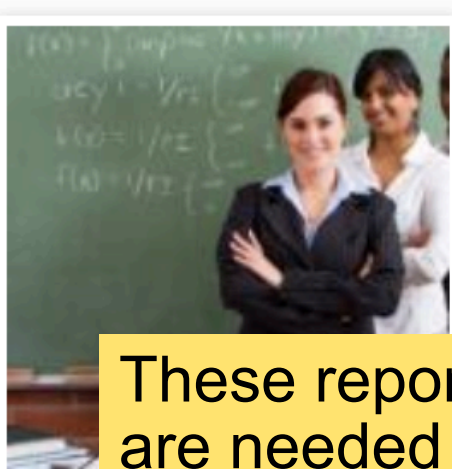
- Video Exemplars
- Professional Development Resources

Closing the Gap: Factoids

- **Middle school teachers** are most satisfied with their systems, and they generally find the most value in both their **SIS** and **LMS**.
- “It's great to have all that information about students in one location at one time...the information is great, **it's just not as user friendly as it could be.**” – Teacher quote regarding **SIS**
- The **SIS** features most valued by teachers are **entering grades, entering attendance, and generating student performance reports.**
- Over 30% of teachers believe the following **LMS** features are the most valuable: **creating personalized learning plans for students; posting and collecting multimedia content; and creating online tools for students.**
- 47% of teachers believe “**LMS**es let me spend more time **teaching** and less time on **administrative** tasks.”

Source: Information Gathered from Teacher and Educational Community Survey

Education Community Attitudes Toward SIS/LMS Solutions Report



Feb. 3, 2012 **REPORT**

Education Community Attitudes Toward SIS/LMS Solutions

Gartner, Inc. surveyed District Leaders, School Leaders, Technology/IT Leaders, and Teachers in the U.S. K-12 education community to understand their attitudes toward the data housed in SIS and LMS solutions and how this data is currently used to improve classroom practice and student learning.

These reports will illustrate that continued focus and progress are needed to ensure that insights from the data captured in these transactional systems facilitate individualized and customized student engagement.” *Irma Fabular, Sr. Managing Partner and North America Education Industry Lead, Gartner, Inc.*

Flexible Display of Reports

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Education Community Attitudes Toward SIS/LMS Solutions



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Download Full Report Here:

 [Education Community
Attitudes Toward SIS and LMS
Solutions](#)

Teacher Findings

REPORT

[View This Section Full Screen](#)

[Teacher Findings](#)

Two Sources of the Information

Teacher Survey (Report 1)

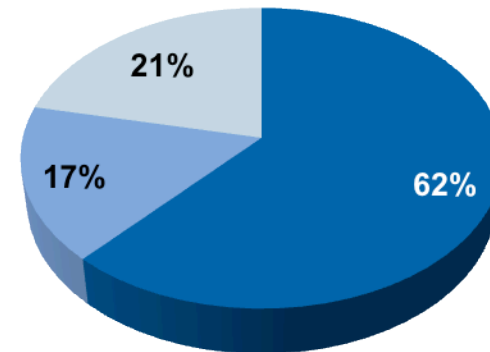
- 1,010 participants
- Independent of school district affiliation

1 of 5 teachers report not using either a SIS or a LMS.

Education Community (Report 2)

- 716 participants

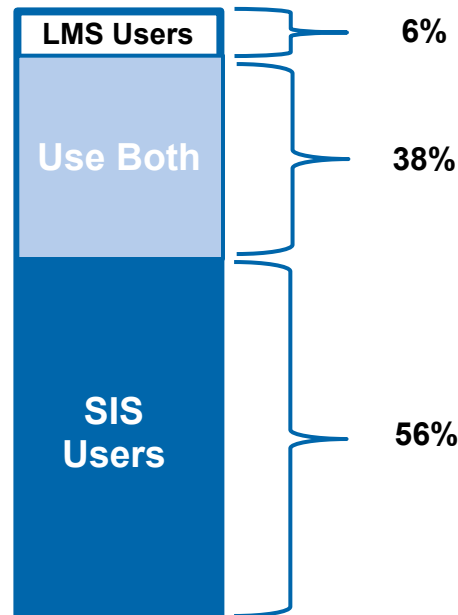
Education Community Survey Participants



- District Leaders
- School Leaders
- Technology Leaders

Education Community Attitudes Toward SIS/LMS Solutions Report

What Do Teachers Use?



Behind the scenes...

- At least 3 of 4 teachers do not know the brand or provider of the solution
- Teachers do not necessarily differentiate between SIS and LMS
- Top uses of the **SIS** are grade reporting and attendance
- Grades and attendance among the top uses of the **LMS**, along with interim reporting and tracking student performance

Education Community Attitudes Toward SIS/ LMS Solutions Report

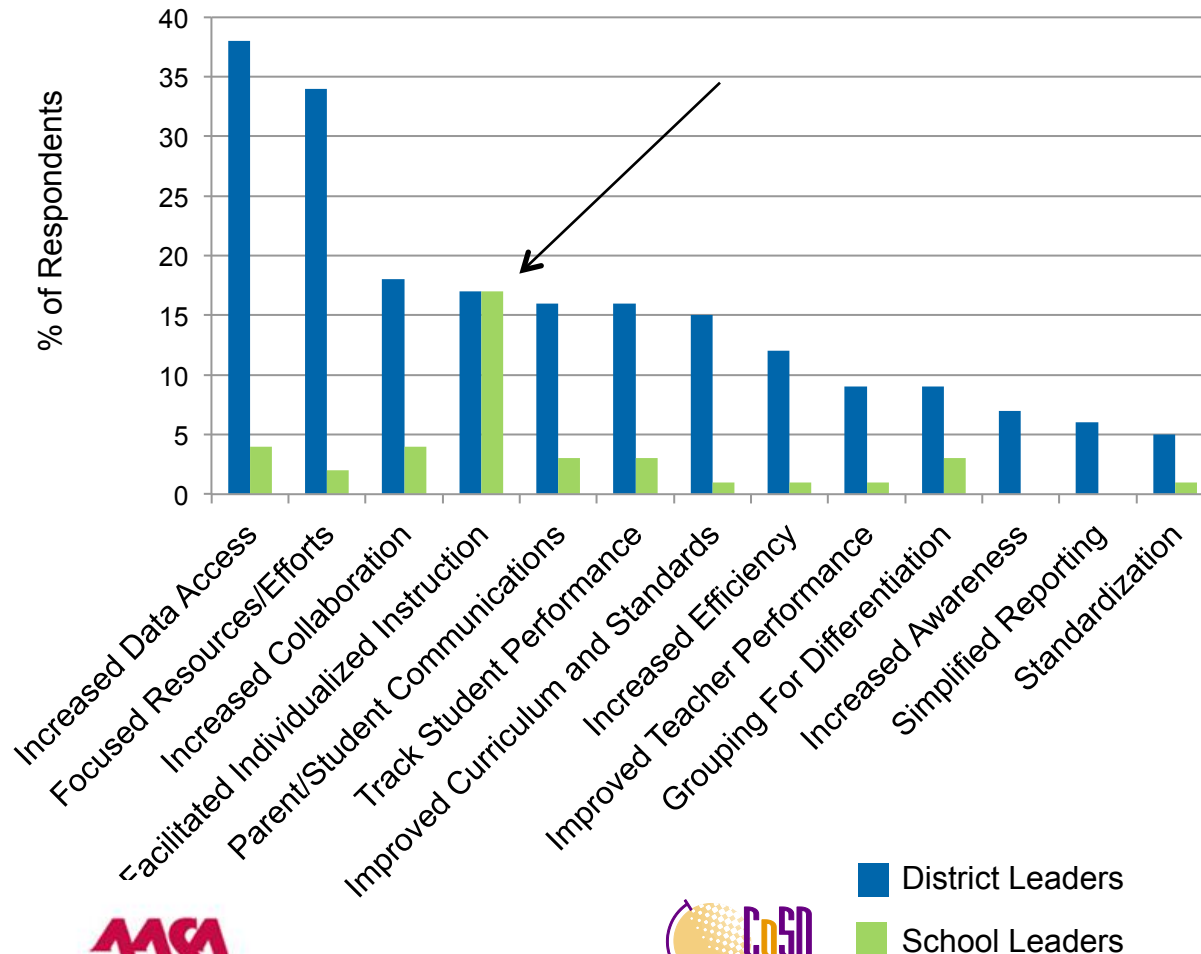
Tools to feed the machine?

In general, use of SIS and LMS solutions beyond the transaction stage are not on the teacher's radar screen.

- Satisfaction among teachers is relatively high... but reported use is limited to transactional functions, e.g., attendance and grades.
- More teachers report daily usage of their SIS than they report daily usage of their LMS:
 - Possible misidentification of solution
 - Compliance driven - completion of mandatory transactions
- Non-users of SIS and LMS view transactions as the primary use

Education Community Attitudes Toward SIS/LMS Solutions Report

Leadership and SIS/LMS Solutions



- School leaders overwhelmingly report the primary benefit of SIS/LMS data is the ability to individualize instruction based on the assessed needs of each student
- District leaders overwhelmingly cited more benefits than school leaders

Education Community Attitudes Toward SIS/LMS Solutions Report

Great Expectations

District leaders expect the solutions to be used for functions beyond the transactional more so than school leaders...
and much greater than the teachers.

- **District leaders** report access to data as the chief benefit, followed by focusing resources and effort (using the data).
- **District and school leaders agree** that the LMS facilitates individualized instruction, but that was not put into practice by teachers.

Implementation and Selection Approaches Towards SIS/LMS Solutions



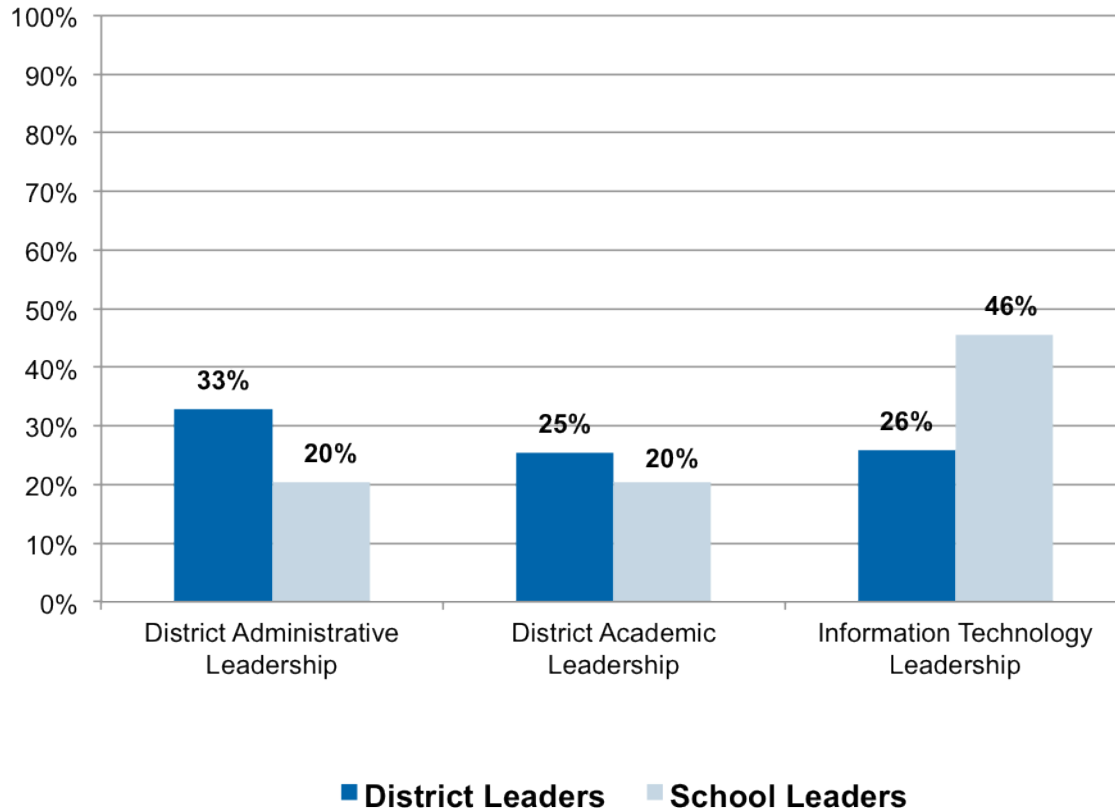
Feb. 2, 2012 REPORT

Implementation and Selection Approaches Toward SIS/LMS Solutions

A key underlying premise of this project is that by capturing and analyzing the data housed in Student Information Systems (SIS) and Learning Management Systems (LMS), the education community can positively impact classroom practice and ultimately student learning. This report aggregates information on selection and implementation practices for school districts of all sizes from the perspective of the Teachers, District, School, and Technology/IT leaders involved in those activities.

Implementation and Selection Approaches Towards SIS/LMS Solutions

District & School Leaders Report SIS/LMS Leadership Role



- School leaders look at SIS/LMS as an IT initiative but district leaders think the ownership is dispersed among District Administrative, Academic and IT leaders.
- IT is most frequently the leader of SIS/LMS initiatives.

Implementation and Selection Approaches Towards SIS/LMS Solutions

School Level Ownership

Classroom focus and teacher POV are assumed but are typically absent. The misalignment begins in selection and implementation of the solutions and the school level perception of IT ownership. The gap is exacerbated by teacher anticipation of shortcomings in training and technology support.

- Fewer than 1 of **3 core implementation teams** included academic or instructional representatives.
- Specific activities **encouraging the use of data in the classroom** are typically absent from planning and implementation.
- Teachers **underutilize the tool sets provided by the solutions**, and classroom use does not match district level perceptions.
- Teachers experience – or anticipate – a **lack of training and support** as an impediment to SIS/LMS utilization.

Implementation and Selection Solutions

Best Practice Case Studies

What we believe we will find where SIS/LMS initiatives have resulted in the use of data to inform instruction:



- **Alignment of administrator and teacher expectations** to use the data beyond compliance with transactional requirements
- **Identification and agreement** on what data is important in the classroom as well as how it should be used
- **Recurring professional learning** on analyzing and using data to inform instruction
- **Consistent** availability of technical training and support
- **Recognition** of the time and resource requirements
- Teacher ownership of the solutions resulting from soliciting and incorporating **teacher suggestions** for use and for improvements

SIS/LMS Solutions Report

Jun. 20, 2012 **REPORT**

SIS And LMS Industry Market Overview

The information in this Gartner report presents an overview of the SIS and LMS market and company background for each vendor. The purpose is to help district, school, and technology leaders understand the complex market of vendors with different breadth and depth of solutions, and geographical and

“These reports aggregate objective information on a broad group of SIS and LMS solutions for K-12 districts and education agencies in a single location for the first time. Education agencies will find value in having ready access to this information as a way to navigate the confusing array of SIS and LMS solutions providing source data to help improve instructional practices. This is critical for today’s cash-strapped education agencies.” *Ivy Anderson, Gartner Managing Partner, and lead for the Closing the Gap program.*

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SIS/LMS Solutions


SIS/LMS Solutions

[Student Information Systems \(SIS\)](#)


[Learning Management Systems \(LMS\)](#)

Downloads

 [SIS Vendor Product Functionality Chart](#)

 [LMS Vendor Product Functionality Chart](#)

 [SIS Vendor Product Summaries](#)

 [LMS Vendor Product Summaries](#)

Solutions Overview

Featured in this section are interactive product comparison tools for Student Information Systems (SIS) and Learning Management Systems (LMS). These comparison tools allow district, school, and technology leaders to:

- ▶ View an overview of each vendor and product.
- ▶ View more detailed functional capabilities of each vendor product.
- ▶ Select up to three products to compare side-by-side.

In addition, a series of downloadable tools and reports are also available:

- ▶ **[SIS/LMS Industry Overview Report](#)**: Report describing key vendors in the industry.
- ▶ **[Vendor Product Functionality Chart](#)**: This chart is a snapshot that aggregates high-level capabilities for all of the SIS or LMS vendors profiled in this site.
- ▶ **[SIS Vendor Product Summaries and LMS Vendor Product Summaries](#)**: This information is an aggregation of all the products profiled in this site.
- ▶ **[SIS Vendor Product Detail and LMS Vendor Product Detail](#)**: These Excel workbooks provide a detailed view of each vendor and their product(s), grouped by company overview, technical specifications, and solution functionality.

Disclaimer

Although the collection of information and tools presented here reflects a significant undertaking to aggregate a variety of market information into a single source about a selection of SIS and LMS solutions, it does not provide an exhaustive list of SIS and LMS vendors, or an in-depth description of all of their offerings. ***These tools do not replace the due diligence and research that prospective purchasers undertake to select a specific solution that meets their operational and educational goals.***



[Home](#) > [SIS/LMS Solutions](#)


SIS Solutions


SIS/LMS Solutions

[Student Information Systems \(SIS\)](#)


[Learning Management Systems \(LMS\)](#)

Downloads

 [SIS Vendor Product Functionality Chart](#)

 [LMS Vendor Product Functionality Chart](#)

 [SIS Vendor Product Summaries](#)

 [LMS Vendor Product Summaries](#)

Please click on the product name to view a summary of the product's background and capabilities. *You may select up to three products for comparison.*

[Compare Products](#)

Century Consultants Star_Base SIS Express

Century Consultants Star_Base SIS Express is a comprehensive, SIF-certified Web-based solution that offers schools a centralized application that can help streamline the district's core processes and improve its ability to manage instruction. SIS Express gives districts the ability to define how their business rules are managed within the system. Districts have the capability to customize the application to meet their individual requirements without the need for custom programming.

 [Compare](#) 0 of 3 selected

Edupoint Synergy

Edupoint Synergy is an SIF-compliant, SIF-certified Web-based solution that delivers SIS features and compliance reporting capabilities through a flexible, customizable architecture that streamlines workflow, supports data-driven decision making, and facilitates collaborative communications. Synergy tracks and manages all essential district and student data while streamlining all of your essential K-12 student information management processes.

 [Compare](#) 0 of 3 selected

Follett Aspen

Follett Aspen is an SIF-compliant, Web-based solution providing highly configurable and adaptable features for the district office, school users, classroom, service providers and the home. Aspen provides an intuitive, customizable



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LMS Solutions


SIS/LMS Solutions

[Student Information Systems \(SIS\)](#)


[Learning Management Systems \(LMS\)](#)

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 [SIS Vendor Product Functionality Chart](#)

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Please click on the product name to view a summary of the product's background and capabilities. *You may select up to three products for comparison.*

[Compare Products](#)

Agilix BrainHoney LMS

Agilix BrainHoney LMS is a shareable content object reference model (SCORM) and IMS-compliant Web-based solution that offers blended and online learning, standards alignment and reporting, and mastery-based differentiated instruction. BrainHoney LMS is hosted in the cloud, so schools and districts are relieved of hardware considerations. BrainHoney LMS is built on the BrainHoney platform, a modular learning infrastructure that offers digital content including online courses, videos and assessments, either for a fee or as open resources.

 [Compare](#) 0 of 3 selected

Blackboard Learn

Blackboard Learn is an IMS Common Cartridge compliant Web-based solution that incorporates content management and community personalization features to meet a wide range of digital teaching and learning needs. Blackboard Learn provides one education technology platform for teaching and learning, community-building, content management and sharing, and community-driven experiences.

 [Compare](#) 0 of 3 selected

Desire2Learn Learning Suite

Desire2Learn Learning Suite is an IMS-compatible, integrated suite of Web-based products that provides a seamless experience for the creation, delivery and management of courses. Desire2Learn Learning Suite users can build and



Compare LMS Solutions

Please click on the vendor product name to view a summary of the product's background and capabilities.

Show/Hide All Details

	<u>Agilix BrainHoney LMS</u>	<u>Blackboard Learn</u>
Content Access	✓	✓
Design and Development	✓	✓
Curriculum Evaluation	✓	✓
Instructional Design	✓	✓
Plan Book/Lesson Plans	✓	✓
Gradebook	✓	⊖
Portfolio Management	Future	✓
Collaboration Tools	✓	✓
Online Assessments	✓	✓
Class Data Management	✓	✓
Item Creation and Storage	✓	✓
Scoring	✓	✓
Results Processing	✓	✓
Individual Development Plans	✓	✓

LMS Vendor Product Functionality Report - Excel

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	3.0 Functionality	Agilix BrainHoney LMS	Blackboard Learn	Desire2Learn Learning Suite	Epsilon Learning Management	Follet Aspen LMS	Instructure Canvas	Moodlerooms	Pearson Learning Studio
1									
2	3.1 Functional Capabilities								
3	Content Access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Curriculum/Content Management								
5	Design and Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Curriculum Evaluation	✓	✓	Optional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Learning/Student Management								
8	Instructional Design	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Plan Book/Lesson Plans	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊖
10	Gradebook	✓	⊖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊖
11	Portfolio Management	Future	✓	ePortfolio is Optional	✓	✓	⊖	✓	✓
12	Collaboration Tools	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Online Assessments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Class Data Management	✓	✓	Desire2Learn Analytics Are Optional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Assessment Capabilities								
16	Item Creation and Storage	✓	✓	Learning Repository Is Optional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

SIS Vendor Product Functionality Report - Excel

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
	3.0 Functionality	Century Consultants StarBase SIS Express	Edupoint Synergy	Follet Aspen	GlobalScholar Pinnacle SIS	Harris SchoolMAX Enterprise SME	Infinite Campus	Pearson Chancery SMS	Pearson PowerSchool	Skyward Student Management Suite	SunGard K-12 Education eSchoolPLUS
	3.1 Functional Capabilities										
	Student Data/Demographics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Registration and Enrollment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Scheduling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Attendance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Gradebook	✓	✓	✓	Optional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Grades and Transcripts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Special Education	3rd Party	Optional	✓	✓	✓	✓	Optional or 3rd Party	3rd Party	✓	Optional
	Behavior Records	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Fee Management	✓	✓	✓	Future	✓	✓	Optional or 3rd Party	Optional or 3rd Party	✓	✓
	Health and Medical Records	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Optional	✓
	Teacher Portal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Parent and Student Portal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Administrator Portal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	State Reporting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Standard and Ad Hoc Reporting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Data Analysis and Assessment	✓	Standard/3rd Party	✓	Optional	✓	✓	⊖A	Optional	✓	3rd Party
	Language Support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊖A	✓	✓	✓

Desire2Learn® Learning Suite

Desire2Learn® Learning Suite is an integrated suite of Web-based products that supports industry standards and allows for the creation, delivery and management of courses.

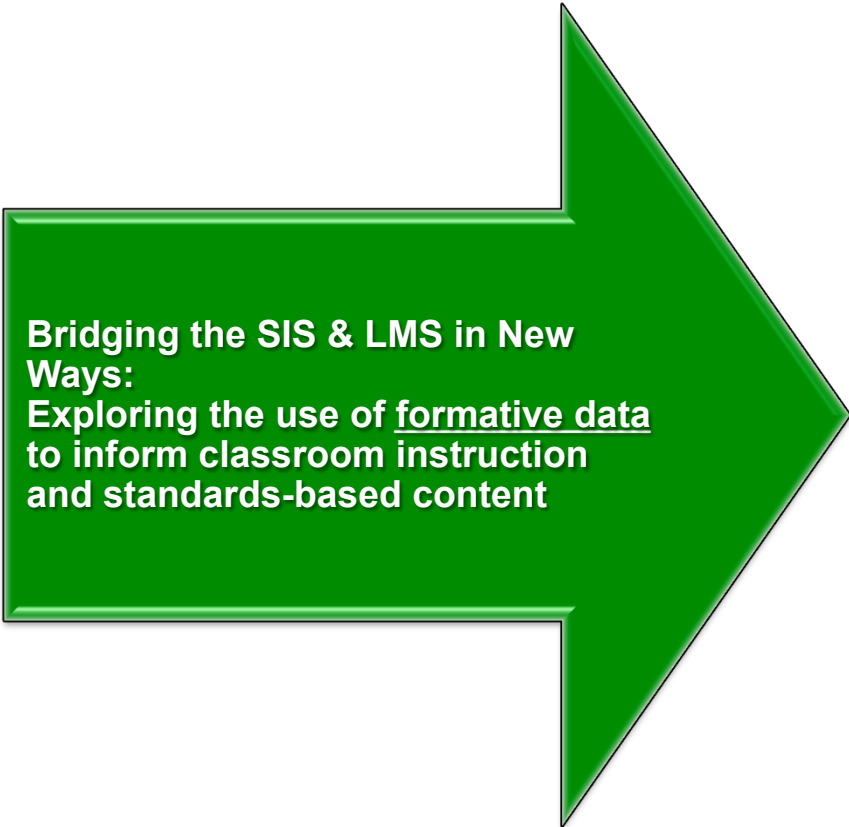
Desire2Learn Learning Suite users can build and deliver learning experiences, create and share personalized e-portfolios, gain real-time knowledge with sophisticated analytics, and capture and distribute presentations worldwide.

In addition to core capabilities provided by LMS solutions, some highlights of this solution are:

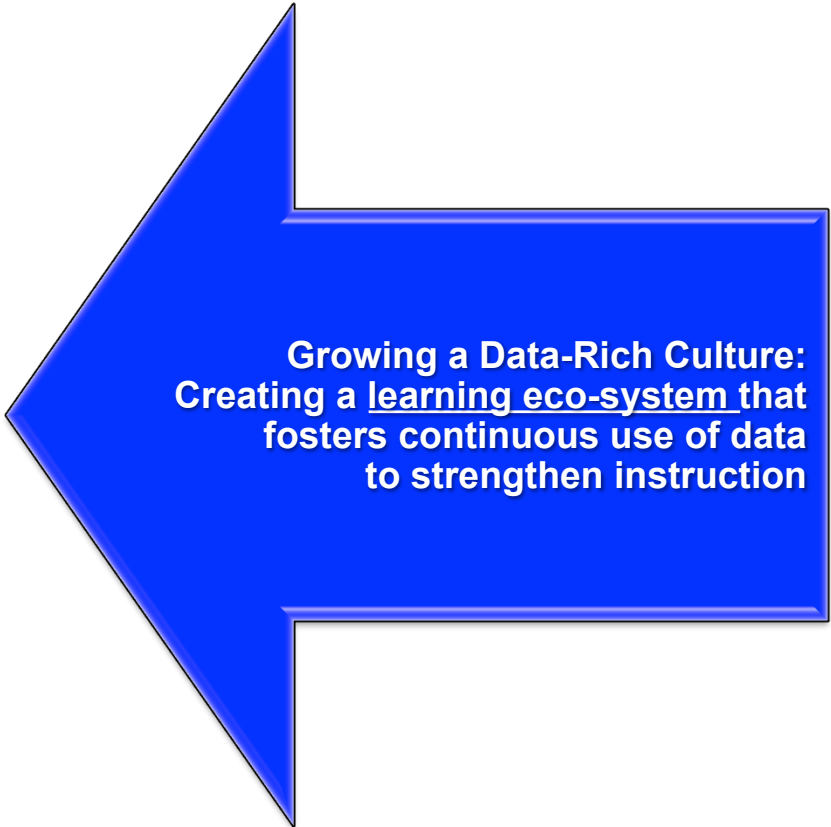
- **Support for Common Core standards:** Desire2Learn Learning Suite fully supports the alignment of test or quiz bank items with standards, including Common Core and state standards.
- **Personalized learning:** Individual learning paths and learning outcomes can be established and assessed through the use of competencies and rubrics assessment tools.
- **Data-driven instruction:** Desire2Learn Learning Suite provides the capability to create robust and insightful reports in three ways: the Desire2Learn Reporting Tool, reporting within individual tools (content, discussion, quizzes, surveys, etc.) or through the optional Desire2Learn Analytics platform.
- **User Interface (UI):** Desire2Learn Learning Suite provides an intuitive user interface that gets instructors and learners creating and taking courses quickly with built in faculty and student efficiencies

Desire2Learn's client experiences include some of the world's largest implementations of an e-learning platform for K-12. They help their K-12 clients serve online students, blended students and credit recovery students from statewide to single school implementations. They further support their K-12 clients by providing a means to align common core standards and personalized learning, and make data-driven decisions. They respond to and address their client and market needs, including the evolution of such key functional areas as competency-based learning; personalization, individualization and differentiation of instruction; social learning; development of "21st-century skills"; specialized programming such as remediation, core or advanced placement (AP)/international baccalaureate (IB) courses; and online/blended

Closing the Gap: CoP Themes



Bridging the SIS & LMS in New Ways:
Exploring the use of formative data to inform classroom instruction and standards-based content



Growing a Data-Rich Culture:
Creating a learning eco-system that fosters continuous use of data to strengthen instruction

District Communities of Practice

Bridging SIS & LMS in New Ways:

Exploring the use of formative data to inform classroom instruction and standards-based content

- Boulder Valley School District RE-2, CO
- Cherry Creek School District, CO
- Collinsville Community School District 10, IL
- Community High School District 94, IL
- Hernando County School District, FL
- Holbrook Public Schools, MA
- Santa Ana Unified School District, CA
- Wellsville Central School District, NY

Growing a Data Rich Culture:

Creating a learning eco-system that fosters continuous use of data to strengthen instruction

- Altar Valley School District, AZ
- Appleton Area School District, WI
- Erie School District, PA
- Lincoln County Schools, TN
- Morley Stanwood Community Schools, MI
- Nicolet Union School District, WI
- Sandusky City Schools, OH
- Westfield Washington Schools, IN

Community of Practice SIS/LMS Data Needs

Centralized Data System

- Involve **all stakeholders** including students and parents
- Allow for **developing and implementing** valid assessments of students in timely manner

Professional Development & Real Time Data

- Training improving **our efficiency** to use data more productively
- Relevant, **real-time** data for teacher *and* student use

Community of Practice

SIS/LMS Data Needs

Progress Monitoring

Trend Data - AP, SAT, PSSA,
AYP

Common
Assessments

Attendance &
Demographic
Data

Standardized
Tests

Formative
Assessments

Community of Practice SIS/LMS Data Needs Engaging Students

Real Time Data

- **Real-time** access to their grades and test scores

Response to Intervention

- **Automated**, individualized interventions targeting student resources to help remediate gaps in their knowledge

Resource Recommendations

- Recommendation of **additional resources** for areas student, e.g. addressing gaps and strengths in student mastery

District CoP Leaders Questions



1. Will a LMS be “**pliable**” to allow for customization with student devices and online tools acting like “**bolt-on**” parts that meet both teacher and student needs as they make academic progress?
2. SIS contain historical modules (grades, assessments, etc.). Can LMS’s have a similar component allowing users access to academic documents/portfolios from class to class and year to year, **demonstrating learning and academic growth**?
3. Can a district's SIS communicate with its LMS in ways that leads to **up-to-date information** about and for each student, parent, teacher and administration?

Closing the Gap

TURNING DATA INTO ACTION

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Closing the Gap gives educators the resources they need to turn data into action to strengthen instructional practices.

- ▶ Reports based on broad input from the K-12 educational community including up-to-date information on student information systems (SIS) and learning management (LMS) software solutions.
- ▶ Best practices for implementing SIS/LMS software systems.
- ▶ Engaging online Communities of Practice (CoPs) to facilitate the use of project resources, share results and learn from each other.

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FEB 3

Education Community Attitudes Toward SIS/LMS Solutions

How SIS and LMS data is used in the classroom and factors that are hindering the use of data to improve student achievement.

Latest Discussions

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Events

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Posted by: Ann on Feb. 7, 2012

Focus Upon Using Data in the Classroom During SIS/LMS Implementations?

Two findings within...



Closing the Gap Vendor Forum

Location: ISTE 2012 Conference, San Diego, CA
2:00pm - 6:00pm EDT

Thank you!



Future Gartner Questions?

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Closing the Gap: Turning SIS/LMS Data into Action

Center for Educational Leadership and Technology

Teacher Student Data Link
Vendor Summit

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