What is Alma™?

Alma is a new approach to student information and learning management. Alma replaces the expensive, fragmented systems in use in schools today with a simple and intuitive online system that minimizes busywork. Alma brings together student information, classroom management, and curriculum and lesson planning in one place, saving educators time and giving families better visibility into their students' learning. Alma's core services are free, because every school, no matter how big or small its budget, should have access to the best tools available.

Who uses Alma?

Both private and public schools are adopting Alma to improve operational efficiency and student outcomes. Alma helps administrators manage school operations smoothly and efficiently, enhance the school-home connection, and analyze critical school and student data for more informed decision-making—all from one centralized, secure location. For teachers, Alma provides a holistic view of student performance and helps automate everyday tasks, reducing busywork so they can focus more time on teaching. Alma also offers dashboards that allow parents and students to view important school information and monitor academic and behavioral progress.

What are the benefits of Alma?

Alma helps schools improve operational efficiency and student outcomes by streamlining mission-critical systems into one modern solution that fits any budget. Educators are asked to work longer and longer hours, expending a significant portion of time on administrative activities or using cumbersome technology systems that don't work well for them. With a simple and intuitive interface and personalized dashboards, administrators and teachers have all the information and insights they need at their fingertips.

What features are currently available and what do you plan to offer soon?

Alma provides core school and classroom management functionality, such as those typically found in expensive SIS and LMS systems, at no cost. The core set of features that will be available before the 2014-2015 school year includes:

- Role-based interface for administrators, teachers, parents and students
- Student demographic information
- State reporting
- School management and reporting
- Class rosters

- Attendance and enrollment history
- Integrated school calendar
- Notification system
- Traditional, proficiency, and standards-based gradebook
- Standards tracking (including Common Core)
- Curriculum mapping
- Lesson planning
- Customizable report cards

Alma was founded on a core belief in user-centric design and continuous improvement. Our products are never "done." All of the company's products are based on intensive research at the school level, and are constantly seeking ways to improve and expand its offering to help cut down on educators' busywork and free up time and resources that can be better spent on student learning. Our suite of add-on modules will continue to grow with a new tool added every 1-2 months on average.

Why Does Alma Cost So Little?

Alma believes that all schools should have access to world-class education management tools, regardless of budget. So, from day one, the company has engineered its systems to scale with low impact to its operating costs. Alma's core functionality – including key student information, learning management and gradebook features – is provided for free. Services that are more specialized or higher touch, such as custom data migration or onsite support, are offered for a fee. Alma can create a customized solution that meets any school's budget and unique, evolving needs.

What does Alma provide that other solutions don't?

Alma combines the high-quality, effective technology tools educators demand with a user experience they deserve. Alma brings a unique combination of advantages: we offer a clean and easy-to-use interface for a wide breadth of tools at an affordable price. Unlike many other SIS and LMS solutions on the market, Alma was built from the ground up as a cloud-based, integrated system, which enables easier set up, more flexibility, better interoperability, and lower costs.

How does Alma's set up and training work?

As a cloud-based system with simple-to-use interface, Alma is designed to streamline the setup process and get schools up and running quickly. Following set up, Alma works closely with its school partners to provide training and support that is meets every school's budget. Alma offers optional setup and support services for schools that prefer not to handle set-up themselves or need greater hands-on support.

How do you secure student data and ensure privacy?

Alma takes exhaustive measures to ensure data security and student privacy. Because Alma is a permission-based system, users see only the information they are permitted to access. Alma also uses security protocols including SSL encryption and double firewalls to prevent unauthorized access to sensitive school and student information. Alma is fully compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).