Alma™ Facts & Figures

Alma Quick Facts

- Alma automates school processes, saving staff hours of time each week by reducing their busywork.

- Alma offers core functionality, including student information, classroom management, and curriculum and lesson planning, for free.

- Alma's all-in-one system helps schools improve accuracy and consistency of data and get real-time student data, all at a price that every school can afford.

- Alma's automated gradebook calculations leads to fewer reporting errors.

- Administrators, teachers, parents and students have 24/7 access to critical information through a single, secure cloud-based system that replaces multiple logins and solutions.

School Trends

- District leaders, school leaders, and teachers agree that both SIS and LMS solutions do not fully meet their needs. About 50 percent of surveyed district leaders and teachers report being satisfied with their SIS/LMS solution, while less than half of school leaders report being satisfied.[1]

- Only 37 percent report that their SIS improves school efficiency, just 29 percent say their SIS lets them spend more time on teaching and less time on administrative tasks, and merely 29 percent say their SIS is intuitive. [1]

- Teachers report difficulty integrating solutions into the classroom, poor professional development, and ineffective tools, including lack of shortcuts and too "one-size-fits-all" settings, as key barriers to increased classroom usage of SIS and LMS solutions. [1]

- The majority of teachers report that SIS/LMS solutions do not perform well in the functions that are most important to them. [1]

- Most educators believe that parents and students should have access to grades online so that students can self-monitor, teachers stay on top of their grading, and parents have a simple way to maintain communication with their children and their teachers.[2]

Educator Workload

- Teachers are working longer hours than ever before–an average of 50 hours per week.[3]

- 70 percent of the teachers reported they did not have enough time to cover the topics demanded by their states' curriculum frameworks.[3]

- In national surveys, teachers identified excessive workload and lack of time as areas in need of focus and improvement.[3]

- Studies suggest reduction in teacher workload increases teacher satisfaction and reduces attrition[3], which can be as high as 40-50 percent for new teachers within the first five years of their career.[4]

- Frustrations with non-teaching, administrative routines and paperwork contribute to increased teacher dissatisfaction, withdrawal and exiting the profession.[3]

- Time appears to be a major missing commodity in the eyes of most educators.[3]

Working Conditions

- Educator job satisfaction has declined 23 percentage points between 2008 and 2012, from 62% to 39% very satisfied, including five percentage points between 2011 and 2012, to the lowest level in 25 years.[5]

- Half (51%) of educators report feeling under great stress several days a week, an increase of 15 percentage points between 1985 and 2012.[5]

- Research suggests that schools where teachers are more satisfied with working conditions also have higher   student achievement—a difference of 23 percentage points in math and 14 percentage points in reading.[6]

Technology Spending and Adoption

- Two-thirds of all districts spend an average of $200 or more per pupil for all tech-related expenditures.[7]

- Charter schools spend on average $774 more per student on administration and $1,140 less on instruction than do traditional public schools.[8]

- 39 percent of districts surveyed have substantially or fully implemented a learning management system.[7]

- Typically, schools deploy LMS solutions that are separate from the SIS. However, this will soon change as the LMS and SIS become a single solution. The LMS/SIS solution has the potential to transform education by enabling teachers to be consumers of information rather than collecting and managing data.[9]

Footnotes:

1   "Closing the Gap: Turning SIS/LMS Data into Action: Education Community Attitudes Toward SIS/LMS Solutions." Gartner. 2011.
http://turningdataintoaction.org/sites/default/files/reports/education_community_attitudes_toward_sis_lms_solutions.pdf

2   Edutopia online poll (http://www.edutopia.org/node/4706/results?page)

3   Berry, Barnett; Smylie, Mark; Fuller, Ed. "Understanding Teacher Working Conditions: A Review and Look to the Future." November 2008.
http://www.teachingquality.org/sites/default/files/Understanding%20Teacher%20Working%20Conditions-%20A%20Review%20and%20Look%20to%20the%20Future.pdf

4   Ingersoll R., Perda D. (in press). "How high is teacher turnover and is it a problem?" Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania, Consortium for Policy Research in Education.

5   "The MetLife Survey of the American Teacher: Challenges for School Leadership." February 2013.
https://www.metlife.com/assets/cao/foundation/MetLife-Teacher-Survey-2012.pdf

6   The New Teacher Project, "Greenhouse Schools," 2012.

7   "State of the K-12 Market Report." Market Data Retrieval. 2012.

8   Arsen, David, Michigan State University; Ni, Yongmei, University of Utah. "Is Administration Leaner in Charter Schools? Resource Allocation in Charter and Traditional Public Schools." 2012.
http://www.ncspe.org/publications_files/OP201.pdf

9   "Report for Closing the Gap: Turning SIS/LMS Data into Action: The U.S. SIS & LMS Solution Market." Gartner. 24 June 2012.
http://www.turningdataintoaction.org/sites/default/files/reports/deliverable_2_vendor_summary_report_v17.pdf