



Lenawee Intermediate School District

Quick Facts

Intermediate School District in Michigan, serving:

- 12 public school districts
 - 12 high schools
 - 13 middle schools
 - 20 elementary schools
 - 1 educational center for special education
 - Several individual private schools
- Offers 60 classroom programs, instructional content, course design, and other resources
- 17,000 students
- 1,000 teachers

Snapshot

Lenawee ISD is building well-rounded profiles of student achievement by tracking and reporting a range of student data in *DataDirector*.

Lenawee Intermediate School District

"Our ultimate goal is to track children from birth to graduation regardless of whether they move around within the county," said Jennifer DeGrie, Coordinator for Technology Applications at Lenawee Intermediate School District (ISD) in southern, central Michigan. Educators in the consortium want a full, rounded picture of all children from the day they enter their first early education program at six months through the end of their high school career.

Lenawee ISD provides service, support and leadership to the schools and districts in Lenawee County. Two years ago, the ISD acquired the *DataDirector* data and assessment management solution to provide its member districts access to local assessment data, track student information, and view individual program results without having to ask the central office to run reports. Recently, the ISD enhanced the system with the *Assess2Know* item bank and is working to create common benchmark assessments for all the schools throughout the county.

The scholastic and discipline records, supplemental program results, and demographic information in *DataDirector* help provide a multi-faceted picture of every Lenawee student. "We're happy when we see fewer schools not making AYP, that's one type of data," said Stan Masters, Coordinator, Instructional Data Services, "But *DataDirector* helps us use multiple sources of data to measure student success. "

Challenges

- Make remedial programs more effective by tracking results and individualizing instruction
- Provide schools access to data for reporting and program analysis
- Gain a holistic view of students' entire educational career

Solution

- *DataDirector*
- *Assess2Know*

Benefits

- Supplemental reading groups are now categorized by ability and programs such as Math Trailblazers are carefully audited.
- Schools use *DataDirector's* prebuilt reports to track DIBELS results and create Common Needs Assessments
- *DataDirector* tracks progress starting at early intervention, no matter where a student moves throughout the county

A foundation for data in learning

"Anything that involves producing a mark for a student," said Jennifer DeGrie, "We want to track in *DataDirector*." DeGrie and her colleagues are laying the foundation for a new, data-driven culture at the schools Lenawee County.

It's an ambitious goal for the educators here, but DeGrie and her colleagues are progressing toward it with a clear plan: Gather data, study the data, build educational programs based on the data, execute the programs, then repeat the whole cycle again. "We want to go beyond tracking scores and move into identifying the students we need to help," said Masters.

Currently Lenawee is in the building stage, with about 250 individual *DataDirector* users, mostly principals and administrators. The ISD is entering individual academic programs into the system at the request of individual schools and districts. With the start of the new school year, Masters and his team will roll the system out to all interested faculty members. "We don't want to 'voluntell' people to use it," said Masters, "But we're attracting more users and this fall we'll have enough data in there to be useful to teachers."

Grouping students by skill, not classroom

During this introductory phase, the ISD has achieved a number of educational improvements. Literacy aides now select their students by reading level, not by class. Previously, a literacy aide was assigned a teacher and worked with the five or six students in that classroom who needed help, no matter what their issues were.

Using *DataDirector* reports, the literacy aides now design their rosters and curricula not by proximity but by reading level. Because the groups have similar difficulties, the aides can make better use of their time. "We're beginning to use data at the student level," said Masters.

At Ruth McGregor Elementary in Sand Creek, educators have begun to use *DataDirector* to provide supplemental help for those students who are not performing at grade level. They are beginning to use the system to track student aptitude at the start of academic units as well as at the end. *DataDirector* makes it easy to classify students who don't reach grade level and target each individual's specific areas of weakness. "Instead of going on to the next unit," said technology teacher Alysia Goetz Masters, "We identify those students who need more support and give them help, one on one."

Convenient reporting for DIBELS results

Ruth McGregor Elementary also uses *DataDirector* to help disseminate and analyze data from the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) Assessment. DIBELS measures emerging literacy at the early elementary levels. Several pre-built reports are available in *DataDirector* for viewing DIBELS results. "Now it's much easier to track students and keep an eye on them," said Goetz Masters.

To show progress made by a students in a DIBELS measure, for example, educators can choose the Class Progress Report. To identify students who need extra instruction in specific measures, they can create a Distribution Summary. Distribution Summaries offer instructional recommendations at several levels, such as “intensive,” “strategic,” or “benchmark.” Both of these reports can be generated in *DataDirector* with point-and-click ease.

Once the reports are created, the information can be viewed as aggregated by category in real numbers or percentages. Educators can also drill down to view specific student names. “We use this to track out Kindergarten through second graders,” said Goetz Masters, “Students falling below meet one-on-one with instructional aides or we raise the number of minutes in the day that they work on certain skills.”

Focal points for program enhancement

One school district in the ISD, the Adrian Public Schools, has a school improvement team that runs a program for students struggling in math called Math Trailblazers. The Adrian schools used MEAP scores to identify students for the year-long program, but had not been measuring progress or using assessments during or after the program. “They had been teaching kids what they felt they needed,” said DeGrie, “But they had never reviewed the program in any formal way.”

Masters and DeGrie worked with the Adrian Schools to incorporate the program into *DataDirector*. They determined “focal points” that covered key math standards and established assessments in the fall, mid-year, and at the end of the school year. Now student progress can be documented and program leaders can make adjustments to teaching and learning based on real results.

From early Intervention to graduation

Lenawee offers a robust, in-depth early intervention program for special education children. These programs start well before Kindergarten. Lenawee’s CHILD (Communities Helping to Increase Learning and Development) offers information for parents and activities for children that foster learning, development, behavior expectations and problem-solving. Another intervention program, Early On, assists families with infants and toddlers who have disabilities or developmental delays.

DataDirector helps Lenawee ISD track the impact and achievements of its children right from their first encounter with these programs. The district tracks information such as student and parental attendance at home visits and playgroups. “Parents’ involvement at an early age can have a huge impact on their children’s progress as they develop and grow,” said DeGrie. The district is also working on tracking data from assessments such as the Get It, Got It, Go system for developmental growth of young children.

"As our special ed kids progress through their years of education, *DataDirector* will track the impact of our programs and their accomplishments from early intervention through graduation," said DeGrie.

Tracking students across the ISD

DataDirector has also begun to help Lenawee students experience a bit of consistency in education, even when they move from school to school. "Our students move a lot," said DeGrie. "especially lately as parents are losing jobs and getting new ones, losing homes and finding other places to live."

Because all student records are housed in *DataDirector*, and the whole ISD is part of the system, a child's new principal, counselor, and teachers can get a complete picture of his or her strengths and weaknesses in an instant, without having to wait for records to be transferred or new reports to be run.

Hands-on reporting

DataDirector puts data in the hands of all educators. "We have found *DataDirector* incredibly valuable for pulling data for the Common Needs Assessment," said DeGrie. Previously, in order for a school to get this information, someone would have to contact DeGrie at the ISD central office and ask her to run a COGNOS report. Because of distance and scheduling issues, that information could take days or weeks to arrive.

With *DataDirector*, however, each school has instant access to the information, any time, so schools can populate their Common Needs Assessments quickly and completely without having to rely on the staff at the ISD office. "I absolutely see the value in it," said DeGrie, "Some reports we have to fill out every year, now that the information is in *DataDirector*, we can save an incredible amount of time."

Someone is paying attention

DataDirector helps Lenawee in so many areas because it can track and report all kinds of data, well beyond high-stakes test scores. For example, one school gave its students a survey that asked whether they felt they personally wanted more help than they were currently receiving. The results of that qualitative survey were added to *DataDirector* and are now easily available to all Lenawee educators.

"Teachers can see that information and provide those students additional feedback or lead them into supplemental programs," said Masters, "They're struggling students, but they know someone is paying attention."

For more information about *DataDirector* and *Assess2Know*, visit www.riversidepublishing.com or call 800-323-9540.

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