



EXCELSIOR SOFTWARE

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SPRING 2006 NEWS AT-A-GLANCE EXCELSIOR SOFTWARE, INC.

Excelsior Software and its partner districts are committed to raising student achievement by providing parents and educators with instant access to student progress information, increasing teacher productivity, and improving home-to-school communication. Here are the latest steps Excelsior and its partners have taken toward attaining these goals:

‘DDA’ MAKES DATA ANALYSIS EASY, AFFORDABLE

Excelsior’s District Data Analyzer (DDA) has expanded its functionality to help educators make more informed, data-driven decisions. DDA is a cutting-edge analytics tool that provides individual schools and districts with the full functionality of traditional data warehousing systems for a fraction of the cost. Using DDA, educators can customize and distribute student information to see a clear, broad picture of a class, school or district. DDA now offers educators the freedom to be more creative in their analyses. The Wyoming Department of Education and the Bellevue (Wash.) School District are already using DDA to quickly inform the school debate with data and facts.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR TOUTS PINNACLE’S EFFECTIVENESS, EFFICIENCY

Both Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Broward County Public Schools have cited increased teacher productivity as a key need fulfilled by Excelsior’s Pinnacle assessment management system. Developed from a research study conducted in M-DCPS on the Pinnacle gradebook, a new research tool – The Teacher Work Matrix – helps examine teachers’ work routines and measure the impact of technology on teacher effectiveness and efficiency. Florida Teacher of the Year (2000) Stephanie King will share preliminary research results with other Florida educators during a presentation at FETC entitled *New Administrative Technology Rules and Tools for Classroom Efficiency*. The presentation will suggest a method by which teachers and administrators are able to make sound judgments about the impact that adopting technological solutions has on the effectiveness, efficiency and organization of teacher work.

EXCELSIOR HELPS MIAMI-DADE WITH PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

As a sponsor for the Miami-Dade County Public School (M-DCPS) Parent Academy, Excelsior Software will help parents utilize technology to get more involved in their children’s daily schoolwork. M-DCPS created the Parent Academy as a source to help answer parents’ questions on topics that impact their children’s lives. Through the Parent Academy, Excelsior Software will provide a parent training course that instructs parents on using the Pinnacle Internet Viewer, a component of the Pinnacle assessment management system used by M-DCPS. Understanding that it is often difficult for parents to be physically present at school on a regular basis, the training course stresses the importance of parent-teacher communications, highlighting the use of technology to achieve regular communication. The course is free to parents and will be offered in April, both as a traditional class or online.

PINNACLE PLUS, DDA NAMED FINALISTS FOR CODIE AWARDS

For a second consecutive year, Excelsior Software has earned dual honors in the Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA) 21st Annual Codie Awards. Established in 1986, the Codie Awards remain the standard-bearer for celebrating outstanding achievement and vision in the software, digital content and education technology industries. Pinnacle Plus has again been recognized as a finalist in the “Best Student Information System or Gradebook” category, while District Data Analyzer joins the finalists in the “Best Solution for Education Enterprise” category. Each product was selected from over 1,000 high-caliber nominees as one of the best in the software and information industry.

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