



Education Data Management Solutions

News Release
For Immediate Release

STI'S NEW BROWSER-BASED TOOL OFFERS PERSONALIZED PORTAL, QUICKLY TRANSFORMS SCHOOL DATA INTO USEFUL INFORMATION

InformationNOW generates customized alerts and features easy-to-use data reporting tools

MOBILE, ALA. (June 28, 2005) – Time is crucial to administrators and educators – any time lost can result in missed learning opportunities for students. To offer quick access and an easy-to-use data analysis tool for time-pressed school staff, STI today launches *InformationNOW*[®]. The new product from STI, the nation's leading provider of education data management solutions for K-12 schools, is unique in its level of accessibility, intelligence and personalization.

District technology coordinators estimate they spend as much as half of their time doing ad-hoc data reports for administrators and other stakeholders in their schools. *InformationNOW* automates much of this work and frees up time for technology coordinators. Because the browser-based tool is simple to use, school personnel with authorized access can quickly obtain meaningful reports with a few clicks of the mouse. Users can select packaged reports or use the program's query tools to create customized reports that meet their specific needs.

“In education today, school faculty must have the capacity to identify needs and make proactive changes to provide students with the best possible learning environment,” said Rob Fiance, CEO of STI. “To do this, those involved in the education process need information at their fingertips. They need to be alerted to events as they are occurring, not weeks later when it's too late. Our new application allows school stakeholders to conduct ongoing, accurate analysis for better, quicker decision-making.”

With *InformationNOW*, users can set parameters around a possible event to receive alerts when the parameters have been reached. Based on the user's criteria, the application scours school databases to determine if certain events are occurring and then notifies the user. For instance, if an administrator is concerned school attendance may drop below 95 percent, then he or she can set up such an alert that notifies the administrator when the threshold has been reached. Alerts are personal and automatically generated. It can search for a variety of events such as discipline infractions or missed deadlines on individual education plans.

Advocated by education authorities, data-driven decision-making is a successful method for improving education. However, few administrators and educators have the time or knowledge to perform data mining and turn it into information they can use to make a difference in students' lives.

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InformationNOW is an intelligent platform that can search data from multiple data sets and transform high-level data into easy-to-understand information. The reporting tool provides “one icon” on the user’s desktop that can launch any of STI’s suite of data management systems including *STIStudent Information System*, *STISETS*, *STIProfessional Development Management* and *STIAssessment*. Reports from other school programs can also be linked to *InformationNOW*, allowing educators to integrate their information for more efficient decision-making. In just a few steps, users can create reports that would otherwise be difficult to develop and access without an integrated system. For example, administrators can track trends in attendance and highly qualified teacher status, and teachers can compare a student’s grades against benchmark assessment results.

InformationNOW saves time, so administrators and educators can focus on decision-making and instruction rather than crunching numbers. The application requires little or no training and it is easily maintained. In addition, the role-based nature of *InformationNOW* guarantees security of student data. Only the reports that are important to the user are accessible from the user’s personalized homepage.

Introductory pricing is available. For more information, visit www.sti-k12.com/NOW/ or phone 800-844-0884.

About STI

STI is a leading provider of *Education Data Management* solutions to the K-12 market. STI’s fully integrated suite of products addresses attendance, scheduling, special education, assessment, discipline, grade reporting, professional development, fund accounting, health, and parent/teacher communications. More than 5,000 schools in 28 states use STI solutions. The company was founded in 1982 and is headquartered in Mobile, Ala. For more information, phone 800-844-0884 or visit www.sti-k12.com.

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Editor’s Note:

Please contact Edmundo Gonzalez or Charlene Blohm for high-resolution screenshots and introductory pricing.