

**STI INTRODUCES NEXT-GENERATION STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM TO
ENABLE ALL SCHOOL STAKEHOLDERS TO ‘OWN’ THEIR DATA**

*InformationNOW® includes complete web-based student information system
with reporting tools; accessible through portal customized to each user*

MOBILE, ALA. (July 6, 2006) – For data-driven decision-making to be effective, district leaders need to make data accessible to every stakeholder and help stakeholders turn the data into meaningful information that can be used to inform instruction and district operations. Providing educators with the tools to take data-driven decision-making to the next level, STI today announces the expansion of its *InformationNOW* brand to include a new, next-generation student information system. *InformationNOW* previously included STI’s web-based reporting tool, which has been well received by educators.

STI, the nation’s leading provider of education data management solutions for K-12 schools, is offering a new product that enables educators to take control of their data and connect school improvement to the needs of students. *InformationNOW* provides a complete web-based system for the collection, analysis and reporting of student data that is accessible through a customizable portal for each user. Because the system is simple to use, authorized users can quickly get the information they need when they need it.

InformationNOW is a sophisticated web-based data management system, yet it transforms high-level data into easy-to-understand, meaningful information. By providing quick access and insight into student data, district leaders can make more informed decisions for efficient and effective school management, educators can better understand the needs of their students to maximize learning, and parents can be more involved in their children’s education.

According to the Data Quality Campaign, a national collaborative effort managed by the National Center for Educational Accountability, policymakers and educators must prepare for next-generation improvements to their data systems. The group advocates the use of longitudinal data systems that make it possible to integrate data across district operations, transfer student records easily, and organize the system to facilitate data use and user-friendly reporting.

InformationNOW is a state-of-the-art system that can search within multiple data sets and integrate data to produce informative and valuable reports. Users can select packaged reports or use the program’s query tools to create customized reports that meet their specific needs. The system can track all of a school district’s data. Users can also set parameters around a possible event to receive alerts when the parameters have been reached. Based on the user’s criteria, the application scours the district’s centralized database to determine if certain events are occurring and then notifies the user. The system is able to track data over time for on-going, accurate data analysis.

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With *InformationNOW*, users can personalize their homepage to specify the information and reports they want to see. The system adjusts itself to each user. Because *InformationNOW* is role-based, data security is inherent in the application. For example, a counselor may have a different user interface than an administrator if the counselor is not permitted access to certain types of student data such as Social Security numbers.

The system offers modules that are tailored for administrators, teachers, parents and nurses. In the administrator module, administrators can track a wide range of school information including student and staff demographics, enrollment, attendance, grades, and discipline, and create reports as needed for ad-hoc district reporting as well as state and federal reporting requirements. Administrators can also conduct “academic sessions,” which allows them to examine forward-looking or past school years without affecting the current year. This also allows for analysis within the modern school, where programs often form a “school within a school,” such as an adult education program in a high school running simultaneously to the regular program.

Teachers can record attendance, grades, post homework assignments and create lessons plans. To strengthen the school-home relationship, a special module for parents allows parents to view their child’s attendance, grades, homework, discipline reports, school calendar and notes from the teacher.

Quick access to information is of utmost importance to school nurses when a student’s health is at risk. Through the *InformationNOW* module for nurses, they can document and monitor student immunization history and compliance, medical logs, multiple screenings, medicine logs, and health alerts.

InformationNOW provides unlimited scalability by simply adding more hardware power. The system is built on the industry standard Microsoft® SQL 2005 and .NET®, and it is completely web-based, so no client installation is required. Only a browser is required on the client workstation.

STI customers in Missouri, Mississippi and Wisconsin plan to implement the program in the 2006-2007 school year. Besides providing new customers with this next-generation product, STI is also making it available to its existing base of customers. For more information, visit www.sti-k12.com 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 6,000 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:

For product pricing and high-resolution photos, please contact Edmundo or Charlene.

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