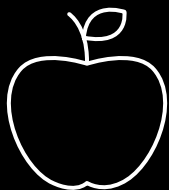




How Truly Integrated Student Data Enables Positive Learning Outcomes

**ELIMINATE STUDENT DATA FRAGMENTATION
WITH AN INTEGRATED DATA PLATFORM**

The digitization of student data over the past few decades has streamlined grading and instruction. Teachers, students and even families have real-time access to student progress data, from time spent on assignments to areas in need of intervention. Yet, with teachers having [over 80,000 “educational” apps](#) and an array of edtech platforms, school systems must somehow synthesize all that data to help educators and students.



Two-thirds of teachers and administrators report feeling “tech fatigue.”

“As a former educator, I remain amazed at the ingenuity of and problem-solving performed by educators on a daily basis,” said Chris Hull, co-founder and president at Otus, an integrated data platform that connects educators with actionable student data.

“However, the K-12 market’s desire to quickly solve pain points has fractured itself with siloed solutions, and the educators, students and families are left with incomplete insights and understanding of student performance. There is now a course correction occurring where many are looking to gather and synthesize this student information into a singular profile.”

Hull is echoing a K-12 concern, and one that boils down to an urgent question: How can technology unify these data points to better serve students?

FIGHTING STUDENT DATA FRAGMENTATION

With so many edtech options available and required by educators, it’s no wonder [two-thirds of teachers and administrators report feeling “tech fatigue.”](#) Having a wealth of student data, but siloed, is ineffective — and can overwhelm teachers.

Several years ago, that ineffectiveness confronted Merri Beth Kudrna, curriculum director of Wood Dale School District 7 in Illinois, who realized all the data collection in the world wouldn't help students if the district's fragmented data in internal spreadsheets wasn't accessible, collaborative and intuitive. Further, the district used not a traditional letter grade system but standards-based rubric tracking. Understanding how students were progressing toward and reaching standards required a lot of data and analysis that was tedious to glean manually.

That's when Otus entered the picture, with its suite of data collection and analysis tools that aid in assessment development and decision-making. Immediately, Kudrna and her colleagues started to use data analytics for decision-making, as well as creating assessments based on rubrics Otus suggested. Also, families could use Otus to view standards-based progress reports specific to their students.

"Using Otus has really transformed how we analyze the data and disseminate that information. When you create a rubric or an assessment within Otus, you must align that to a standard. So our teachers are looking at each question or each point on a rubric and aligning that to a standard, and then communicating that," Kudrna said.

Data collection, analysis and dissemination was the original goal of integrating Otus, but Kudrna said there was a planned three-year arc in rolling out other Otus features. Last year, the district started using Otus Plans, which gives teachers and administrators a pathway to view goals and data for students who require additional help through the intervention process. This feature comes with transparency, too.

"When we have our six-week review meetings as a group to discuss students in need of interventions, we can all look at the data and see how the student is doing academically, as well as socially and emotionally, too," Kudrna said.

"The data is available right away so teachers, parents and students can see it when they look at the student's page," Kudrna said. "Otus has really transformed how we approach student progress and transparency among all parties."



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”

— Merri Beth Kudrna
CURRICULUM DIRECTOR,
WOOD DALE SCHOOL DISTRICT 7, ILL.

Data Collection, Communication Transparency

Lisa Wardle is an instructional coach with Hemet Unified School District, Calif., and has used several learning management systems with varying levels of satisfaction. When her team started using Otus, she said data collection and analysis got much easier.

“The assessment and analytics features in Otus go far beyond what other learning management systems offer, allowing me to easily track every single standard students are working on in class,” Wardle said. “This can look like students demonstrating their proficiency formatively on a worksheet or assignment, or their performance on a summative assessment at the end of the instructional unit.”

Wardle also said Otus’ family features are valuable because teachers are in constant contact, whether on progress or challenging behavior.

“At parent-teacher conference time, there’s no need to catch up on a semester’s worth of developments because both the teacher and parents know where the student stands,” Wardle said. “The actual conference becomes far more effective because they’re charting a path forward instead of rehashing old events.” ■





HOW INTEGRATED DATA LEADS TO IMPROVED PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Teachers are acutely aware that their students' learning varies by method, pace and topic, but addressing caveats has traditionally been difficult because they haven't been able to engage one-on-one. Technology such as Otus offers data-based one-on-one suggestions. This is especially appreciated by educators such as Trevor Johnson, a second-grade teacher and technology adviser at Santa Rosa Academy in Menifee, Calif. Years ago, Johnson would analyze student worksheets to pinpoint who needed help. This took a lot of time, and one-on-one time was again a challenge. Otus gives Johnson a snapshot of each student's assignments, with tools to help him act from there. "With just a few clicks on Otus, I can get the full picture of every student," Johnson said.

One option Johnson uses often is voice notes so the student can revisit his comments on their own, freeing up time for Johnson to lead group activities.

"I can even tag each question in each assignment to a standard," Johnson said. "It's data that I can truly use instead of perusing through charts that have been formed a week after the fact. The immediate nature of the actionable data is what makes it even more powerful."

The more and differentiated the data points, the more effectively teachers can gauge where a student is at any point.

"You can't help your students grow if you don't have that detailed analysis," said Kendell Hunter, product marketing manager at Otus. "It's important for educators to be able to holistically look at any child and immediately see their strengths

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— Trevor Johnson
SECOND-GRADE TEACHER &
TECHNOLOGY ADVISER, SANTA ROSA
ACADEMY IN MENIFEE, CALIF.

and areas of opportunity in order to know what to focus on next. That's how you truly differentiate each child's path, and then adapt to how you want each of them to expand their horizons."

INTEGRATED DATA THAT EVERYONE CAN SEE

Being able to monitor a student's progress in the classroom can be simple: Schools can use Otus' vast amounts of actionable data to optimize instruction.

"I used Otus in my classroom for over five years, and it helped me better understand where my students were before entering my classroom and how they were progressing and performing in my classroom more accurately, reliably and consistently. This helped me differentiate my teaching to maximize their learning," Hull said.

"Now, as a parent using Otus, my wife and I have a better understanding of the skills being taught and worked on in the classrooms of our four kids. And at home, I'm able to better support my children's learning by asking the right questions." ■

ABOUT OTUS

Learn how Otus' all-in-one K-12 data platform supports standards-based and traditional grading, assessments, progress monitoring, and data-informed instruction for real-time student growth analysis for your school, at:

[OTUS.COM](https://otus.com)



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— Lisa Wardle
INSTRUCTIONAL COACH
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