PowerSchool

Top District Priorities & Shifts in PK-12 Education

Historic disruptions, followed by an unprecedented release of federal funding, created an opportunity for profound improvements decades overdue. PowerSchool studied over 25 district plans, including their plans for using ESSER funds, and conducted a nationally representative study asking thousands of educators about their learnings, experiences, and needs.

THE RESULT:

A recentering of the PK-12 conversation about key priorities in education today.

PK-12 education has changed. To learn how and why, and what's most important to schools now,

We Asked 5 Key Guiding Questions

1. What are the most common, pressing school system **priorities?**
2. How did the **pandemic response** prompt new ideas in PK-12 education?
3. What's the status and future of scaling **personalized learning?**
4. Where is **technology** improving student and educator learning experiences?
5. How can **district leaders prepare** for the coming school year?

What We Learned

The work of schools systems now can be organized into:

7 Strategic Priorities + **2 Grounding Concepts**

- **Data-Informed** Decision Making
- **Equitable** Student Supports

High-Quality Tiered Instruction

40% of district leaders vs. **20%** of teachers

Report MTSS implementation challenges.

With twice as many district leaders reporting challenges, there is **significant variance** in MTSS implementation across schools when viewed from the system level.

Whole-Child Supports

53% of teachers **58%** of school leaders

63% of school support staff

identify whole-child supports as fundamental.

The majority of those surveyed agree whole-child supports **contribute greatly to student development.**

Exceptional Workforce

NEARLY **9/10** school and district leaders

say evaluation systems should change to be more supportive.

Educators agree, reporting the most effective types of professional learning are collaborative and sustained.

Robust Family Engagement

NEARLY **90%** of educators

say parent, family, and community engagement can help reverse recent enrollment declines.

About half of respondents say it's critical, while another 40% say it's important.

Expanded Early Childhood Learning

54% of educators

say early childhood programs are a critical educational service that should have been offered long ago.

Respondents unanimously agree that **early childhood programs are a worthy investment.**

Graduates Prepared for College, Career, and Life

NEARLY **7/10** educators

say their district uses technology to support students' postsecondary exploration.

Technology gives students tools **to help them consider future pathways, including education and career pathways,** according to the majority of survey respondents.

Organizational Excellence and Efficiency

4/10 educators

report recent modernization of learning management and communication systems.

While procurement and budget management systems saw less modernization during the same time period, **98% of districts indicate plans to continue or increase** investment in these systems in the next two to three years.

What it Means

A holistic approach to improving PK-12 education supports better student outcomes. Making more informed decisions and promoting educational equity is how we get there.

Read the PowerSchool 2022 Education Focus Report now

for more study findings, thought-leader insight, and examples of forward-looking districts finding success amidst fast-paced change.

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For this original research study, PowerSchool:

- Surveyed more than 3,500 educators
- Held in-depth conversations with over 75 practitioners and leaders
- Scanned 25 mid-sized to large U.S. school district strategic plans