



Case Study



PLYMOUTH-CANTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Location:
Plymouth, MI



Enrollment: 17,000

MISTAR-Q enables the district to:



Improve inventory management



Streamline course requests & scheduling



Modernize report cards

MISTAR-Q Student Information System (SIS) Helps Propel Plymouth Canton Community Schools to Success

For over two decades, the locally-supported MISTAR-Q SIS has been at the heart of Plymouth Schools' journey towards educational excellence and operational efficiency.

We spoke with Mark Salzer, Director of Integrated Technology Systems, Arleen Wenzel, Data Coordinator, and Christine Mazur, Pupil Accountant at Plymouth Canton Community Schools to discuss how MISTAR-Q has helped the district grow and achieve success over its 20+ years of partnership.

Improved Inventory Management

Before implementing MISTAR-Q's inventory module, Plymouth School District grappled with several challenges in managing nearly 13,000 devices. The scale of this inventory presented logistical complexities that strained their IT resources.

After evaluating options to improve their current system, Plymouth implemented MISTAR-Q's robust inventory management module for K-12 schools. With this, what was once an intimidating responsibility of tracking and maintaining the district's technology inventory became manageable and efficient.

"We needed something that could scale and support us as we managed the deployment of thousands of devices, and it's met that," Salzer said. "The reports we can run in MISTAR-Q have saved our district countless hours of time and have improved our accuracy of tracking as well."

With improved tracking and reporting, MISTAR-Q allowed the district to provide students with reliable access to resources, better positioning the district for success with its educational technology initiatives.

Streamlined Course Requests Through a Paperless Interface

Plymouth Schools prides itself on offering students the freedom to choose courses that genuinely interest them. This flexibility in course selection, however, presented a significant administrative challenge.

Students would fill out physical course request cards, a process prone to inaccuracies and incomplete information. These cards would inundate administrators, requiring valuable time to have them manually sort, correct, and distribute the cards.

"It would literally take me three days to sort through all the class request cards, sort which ones needed correction, and put them in each teacher's respective box," Arleen Wenzel, Data Coordinator, said. "It took valuable time away from my other tasks and goals."

The adoption of MISTAR-Q moved student course requests online, yielding substantial time savings and ushering in a new era of administrative efficiency. This system introduced a host of benefits, such as providing administrators with a comprehensive view of students' course selections and schedules.

One of the most impactful advantages of MISTAR-Q is the system's ability to identify students who hadn't yet filled their schedules to capacity. With just a few clicks, administrators could access a detailed overview of which students required additional courses to complete their schedules.

Critical Time Savings with Modernized Report Cards

Prior to using MISTAR-Q, the task of preparing, printing, and distributing over 6,000 report cards across Plymouth's three comprehensive high schools was an extensive and time-consuming task.

"The time it took to prepare the report cards, print all of them out, and then distribute them was a constant but necessary time sink," Wenzel said. "It wasn't just a one-time thing every year either but was needed for every quarter of the school year."

Using digital report cards in MISTAR-Q enabled the district to achieve substantial time savings and improved the overall efficiency of this recurring job. Administrators could reallocate their time toward focusing on their students, contributing to the district's commitment to student success.

Future Dynamic Plans Supported by the SIS

Plymouth Canton Community Schools' dynamic plan reflects a forward-looking approach that emphasizes streamlined tracking and reporting on absence trends to enable earlier student intervention.

"We're very interested in pursuing ways to make collecting attendance data easier for our administrators to develop reports on truancy," Christine Mazur, Pupil Accountant, said. "Being able to identify those students earlier than we're currently able will help us create a positive early intervention in their education."

For other districts who are looking into a new SIS partner to help them achieve their future goals, the Plymouth team recommends taking a critical look at what specific functionalities they'll need from a new system to find a vendor who specializes in those features.



"Ask a lot of questions, gather feedback, and assess what your district is trying to achieve and whether that SIS will help you reach those goals. I would also recommend looking into MISTAR-Q. Consider it, especially the tailored solutions it offers Michigan schools."
- Mark Salzer, Director of IT Systems, Plymouth Canton Community Schools