



Case Study



S

SAULT STE. MARIE
AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Location: Sault Ste. Marie, MI



Enrollment: 2,000

MISTAR-Q enables the district to:



Streamline grade books



Easily access data



Join a support network

Sault Ste. Marie's Successful Transition to the MISTAR-Q Student Information System

In 2020, Sault Ste. Marie had the challenge of finding a new SIS partner during the COVID-19 pandemic. The district ultimately selected MISTAR-Q as the provider who could help them address their current issues and support their future growth.

We recently had a chance to speak with Amy Kronemeyer, Superintendent at Sault Ste. Marie, to hear more about the district's successful SIS implementation and vendor partnership.

The Journey to MISTAR-Q

Finding a product with all critical tools in an integrated system, a streamlined grade book, easily accessible data, and a responsive and proficient support team were at the forefront of Sault Ste. Marie's buying criteria.

MISTAR-Q made the prospective list because Kronemeyer had learned about this option from the MISTAR Consortium. This Consortium is comprised of Wayne and Oakland educational service agencies that combine technology and local expertise in vetting best-fit solutions for Michigan districts.

During the demonstration phase of the buying process, MISTAR-Q impressed the district with multiple personalized walkthroughs of the product. While other SIS providers had marketing or sales teams present, MISTAR-Q had their subject matter experts present specific demos to different personnel.

"What I really appreciated about their presentation is that they went more in-depth for the different staff members," Kronemeyer said. "It really helped everyone across different departments feel confident this SIS could fit our needs."

The alignment with Michigan state and school requirements was another significant factor that led the district to choose this SIS, as it ensured that MISTAR-Q was finely tuned to meet the unique needs, regulations, and standards of the state's educational landscape.



“We’re able to work with other Michigan schools and access people who have a lot more resources and expertise than I have or my district has. We can tap into their expertise and configure a localized version of MISTAR-Q and share that back with other districts, which makes Michigan stronger for all of our students”

- Amy Kronemeyer, Sault Ste. Marie Public Schools

A Tailored Implementation Process

Instead of applying a one-size-fits-all implementation methodology like many other SIS providers, the MISTAR-Q team started by familiarizing themselves with the district—understanding their processes and protocols. This enabled them to customize the implementation specifically to Sault Ste. Marie’s needs.

“This approach to our implementation process made it a lot more streamlined for us,” Kronemeyer said. “By getting to know our district, they were able to determine the best timing to train our staff on a specific piece of the software. It really helped to avoid overwhelming people at the beginning.”

The MISTAR-Q team assigned different specialists to present on various components of the SIS. This method allowed the district’s personnel to pose targeted questions and receive in-depth, well-informed responses.

Valuable Time Savings with Grade Books and Reports

Streamlined Grade Books

The implementation of MISTAR-Q’s grade book module at Sault Ste. Marie School District led to a significant transformation in their academic processes. What once required multiple integrations to be functional for teachers now fell under one cohesive platform.

Educators experienced an intuitive, streamlined, and efficient grade book system that enhanced the accuracy of grades and student feedback. Students and parents alike benefit from this real-time access to academic progress, creating a more informed and engaged learning community.

Easily Accessible Reports

Before MISTAR-Q, Sault Ste. Marie’s process for extracting and analyzing data was manual. Information was scattered across various systems, making it difficult to compile and analyze comprehensive reports. The previous systems also lacked user-friendly interfaces, hindering quick data retrieval and analysis.

With the implementation of MISTAR-Q, users can build intuitive dashboards that allow administrators to access critical data with ease. This not only saves the district time they can allocate to instruction and student support, but they are also able to quickly make data-backed decisions.

A Large Support Network

One area of MISTAR-Q that shines brightest in Kronemeyer’s eyes is the Consortium’s accessibility and the network of support available to schools. She appreciates that there are multiple points of contact within the MISTAR-Q team she can call for help, versus only one or two support specialists with other SIS vendors.

“On a scale of 1-10, I would give the MISTAR-Q support a 12,” Kronemeyer said. “I deal with a lot of vendors, and they are the most responsive, quick, and professional vendor I’ve dealt with. Unlike other vendors that will promise you the world and underdeliver, MISTAR-Q is the opposite. They promise realistic expectations of what they can do, and oftentimes deliver what you didn’t even think was possible.”