



# case study Northwest Community Schools

Jackson, Michigan

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**Mike Tucker, Director of Technology  
Northwest Community Schools  
Jackson, Michigan**

Mike Tucker loves what he’s not hearing.

As Director of Technology for Northwest Community Schools near Jackson, Michigan, Tucker was as frustrated as the district’s teachers because the student assessment software was often out of date due to slow data management processes.

“What’s more important is what I’ve not heard,” Tucker said of comments from the classroom level. “I’m not hearing that teachers are having enrollment issues in Scholastic Read 180, or that students are incorrectly registered in SchoolFusion.”

“No one comes back to me anymore and says ‘this child’s account doesn’t exist in our services.’ Normally I’d hear that weekly, and it would lead to issues in the classroom for the student and the teacher. Level Data promotes “speed to learning” and they demonstrate that every day.”

Tucker said that every year his district installs several new applications — such as Accelerated Reader, Accelerated Math, Moodle, Study Island, Key Train and Scholastic Read 180. His department simply didn’t have the resources to keep the data in sync between the systems AND manage their primary technology duties for their 3500 student district.

“The teachers were making an accurate criticism that we weren’t turning around these data systems fast enough for them to make changes in their classrooms,” Tucker said. “They literally needed daily updates from the student (performance) assessment software, and that was an internal service our department wasn’t scaled to provide.” It now happens automatically in a matter of minutes.

By Tucker’s estimation, Level Data’s solution has saved the district well over \$50,000. To meet the mounting workload, he was preparing to add a data administrator position. “Instead, Level Data was able to do 90 percent of the work that we had planned for that position – making it a very acceptable and cost effective alternative,” Tucker said. “I cannot say enough good things about Level Data. They’ve made our tech department look very, very good.”

Prior to engaging Level Data, Tucker installed a SIF® solution by one of the leading providers. That was a short-lived experiment.

“SIF® is not a bad solution; it’s just not a fair comparison to Level Data,” Tucker admitted. “I completely dropped SIF® mid-year, turned the server off. Level Data has taken on all those services that we were providing through SIF® and they have all worked flawlessly. I would characterize Level Data as an excellent upgrade from SIF®.”