



# case study Western School District

Jackson County, Parma, Michigan

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**David Hood, Director of Technology  
Western School District  
Jackson County  
Parma, Michigan**

The best academic outcomes are reached when parents are fully vested in their child’s education.

Open communication with teachers and effective tools to keep kids organized are critical in attaining the desired outcomes. Another critical tool is Level Data.

“Parents are typically forced to be reactionary when it comes to grading and missed assignments,” said David Hood, Director of Technology at Western School District in Jackson County, MI. Hood added, “As a parent, we’re always behind the eight-ball. We find out (too late) that the kid didn’t do the assignment or we didn’t even know the assignment was due so we could ensure it gets turned in on time.” He also noted that many parents are compelled to “fight and claw for their kids success, especially in high school, because it equates to dollars and cents for college scholarships, higher GPA and class rank.”

Hood’s remedy was to use Level Data’s proprietary software and processes to keep everyone informed, especially ahead of time. He said Level Data has transformed the communication interface between a new school district web site powered by SchoolFusion and the district’s student management software, PowerSchool.

“Because all the assignments now show up in the SchoolFusion web calendar, parents can look at when assignments are coming due instead of waiting to look at a grade book entry. That is a profound switch for parents. We are not reacting to a missed assignment or low score posted in the teacher’s grade book. We can be proactive instead of reactive.”

Level Data has automated the entire enrollment of a new student for the district. Hood said the old process would take up to a week to populate a student in food service, library, network and internet access etc. “What took many people in several departments is now automated,” he said about Level Data. As an example, “A new student walks in at 8:00 in the morning and by 10:00 a.m. their information has been populated in all the systems they will need during their school day. This is a huge advantage for the teachers, too.”

“Level Data has transformed our customer service experience,” he said. “The more information we can give the customer (parent, teacher, or student) the more effective we are as a school district.”

“Level Data allows us to provide a level of customer service that was impossible when we had to manually move data between programs.”