Case Study: Rochester City School District

(Rochester, NY; 30,000 students enrolled in 2018-19)

Rochester City School District (Rochester) had built a well-used but over-burdened data warehouse and data reporting tool. They knew major changes were needed but didn't have the in-house resources needed for those changes. Within a few months, Rochester has worked with Innive to successfully implement a superintendent's dashboard, principal's dashboard, and open data dashboard. They are now working with Innive to integrate their operational systems and artificial intelligence tools to make the dashboards even more valuable to their district.

Data Warehouse and Reporting Become Unwieldy

Rochester City School District had a problem. For over seven years, the district had done yeoman's
work to build and maintain a comprehensive data warehouse to store the vast quantities of information it was collecting from its various student data systems. The district's data warehouse reporting tool, dubbed Student Performance Analytics (SPA), was widely used by district educators. But as SPA continued to grow, it became increasingly unwieldy to support. Furthermore, delivering the information to end-users in a dynamic and easy to understand format remained out of reach.

In describing the SPA system, Rochester's former CIO (and now chief-of-staff) Annmarie Lehner said, "It had too much, it was too messy, and the users didn't know where to go anymore."

ROC3D Superintendent Dashboard

Lift, Shift, and Facelift

Lehner and her IT team recognized the need to provide their community with a better data reporting tool. They brought together a group of district educators to determine the

user interface requirements for their next system and how it should function to best meet their data needs.
After understanding their educators' needs, Rochester chose Innive's K12 360 Framework as the reporting solution for the district's new data driven decision-making system: ROC3D. Some of the key factors for their decision were K12 360's intuitive visuals, Innive's successful track record of meeting school districts' needs, and the company's agile and rapid design and implementation cycles. Additionally, K12 360's use of open source software made it a platform-agnostic solution, allowing for fast and seamless integration with Rochester's existing data systems.

As Lehner described the work with Innive to transform Rochester's SPA system into ROC3D, she said, "We want to completely re-vision what we have by doing a lift, shift, and facelift." When the SPA system is retired and ROC3D is rolled out to all teachers at the end of 2019, she believes the end result will be a dynamic, user-friendly tool capable of providing all district educators with their student data and valuable insights.

Early Wins

Rochester and Innive started off by building a superintendent's dashboard to test the new system's capabilities and gain support for the project from the district's senior leadership. The superintendent's dashboard implementation was successful on both counts. District executives were able to easily view district-wide student data and drill down into data for individual schools. They could also use the system's self-service queries to retrieve information on how each school was progressing towards meeting the goals identified in their state-required school comprehensive plans. The ROC3D project received enthusiastic buy-in from Rochester's senior leaders and gained momentum for the next phase of implementation.

When ROC3D was then extended out to school principals, principals immediately saw the value of the new tool. "Innive gave us better interaction by giving end-users' control through filters of what they wanted to see," said Lehner. "And it allowed them to look at data in new ways." ROC3D has helped principals see aggregate data from other schools and identify those schools doing well in certain performance areas, such as chronic absenteeism by specific student demographic groups. With this information, principals can now reach out to their district colleagues for insights and advice on how to address their own schools' particular areas of need.

Rochester's Next Steps

Rochester is in its first year of the three year ROC3D project. After making significant headway with their initial focus on academics and student reporting, next steps include integrating the district's operational systems: finance, human resources, procurement, food services, and transportation. Additionally, Rochester will further transform their public-facing interface to offer the Rochester community greater data access and transparency on all aspects of each school's performance. According to Lehner, "Innive is allowing us to move to a much more district-wide comprehensive system."

Rochester is now working with Innive to build artificial intelligence tools and knowledge bases for their end-users. Having access to actionable data is not enough to change users' existing practices; users need professional development and guides that give them tangible steps on how to use the data to effectively help students.

For example, data that identifies students with specific social-emotional issues is most helpful if the educator accessing the data also receives information on how to address each student's specific needs. By further expanding into this new realm, Rochester believes ROC3D will become even more valuable in helping the district improve student outcomes.

ROC3D Open Data Dashboard

Why Innive?

Lehner gave several reasons why her district chose Innive's K12 360 solution. "It made the most sense. The Innive technology is more feature-rich and offers the end-users things the district system couldn't. The old system was costly and staff-heavy to maintain. Innive is less costly. It's also more flexible and gives a richer end-user experience. Our old dashboards couldn't filter on demand, but now users can do the filtering themselves and dynamic changes are made on-the-fly. Ease of use is key."

As for getting users comfortable with using their new Innive-driven ROC3D system, Lehner says, "It's like shopping online, choosing size and color. It's as easy as that."

Contact k12360@inniveinc.com for a live demo and access to a 30-day evaluation.

About Innive: Innive believes in empowering organizations by providing insight that goes beyond the data. Innive's K12 360° solutions aggregate and harmonize data from district systems and transform them for clear and concise analysis. Designed with educators and students in mind, the solution's actionable insights are tied to resource and intervention recommendations, enabling real-time continued improvement and student success.