



TUCSON UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

C. Evidence-Based Accountability System

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the District had to place a very high priority on procuring and provisioning staff and student technologies for SY2021-22. This was necessary to facilitate running the District and instructional delivery in a 100% remote mode of operation for the majority of the school year. The District did leverage many of the existing evidence-based accountability system (EBAS) capabilities to support teachers, students, and administrators. As a reminder, EBAS is a federation of multiple software applications, some acquired from commercial software providers, some developed in-house at the District, and all collectively working together to inform the District regarding decisions and strategies for effective instruction and District administration. The District continues to use data from EBAS systems to identify areas of gain and to inform development of action plans where opportunities for improvements exist.

The Assessment and Evaluation, Curriculum and Instruction, Desegregation, Student Relations, African American Student Services, Mexican American Student Services, and Technology Services departments worked throughout the school year to evolve the District's EBAS environment to support instruction, inclusive environments, and family engagement for students. Changes in EBAS for SY2021-22 were minimal and primarily focused on addressing reporting needs that emerged due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since there were no major changes to the federated systems making up EBAS for SY2021-22, the inventory of systems that comprises EBAS remains the same as last year. For reference, the inventory and purpose of each of those systems is included below.

1. Synergy (Student Information System and MTSS)

The District continued to use its Synergy student information system as a critical tool that forms the core of the District's EBAS capabilities. The system captures and allows users to track a wide range of student information, including all the student-related data elements required by the USP. Synergy allows teachers and

other District staff to use student data, including attendance, enrollment, courses, gradebooks, parent information, and schedules. The Synergy system has a robust set of preselected reports and a well-developed report generator interface to allow for a flexible analysis of the full range of data collected.

2. SchoolCity

The District also continued to use SchoolCity, which serves as the District's primary platform for analysis and reporting on data related to student academic assessment and performance and student surveys. The data range from quarterly benchmarks and language proficiency tests to individual teacher formative assessments and student school climate surveys. In SY2021-22, the District continued to work with teacher and school site teams to train them on SchoolCity features that allow professional learning communities and collaborative teacher teams to work together more effectively.

3. iVisions and TalentEd

The District continued to use Infinite Visions software to collect, track, and analyze data regarding its employees, including administrators and certificated staff. The District made no major refinements to the system in SY2021-22, beyond regular maintenance and updates.

The District transitioned from AppliTrack to TalentEd during SY2020-21. The new system provides stronger integration, customization, and reporting capabilities than the previous system. TalentEd is used to implement and record applicant and application processes. As with its predecessor, TalentEd permits the collection and analysis of key information about applicants, interviews, and hiring decisions.

4. Microsoft 365 (formerly referred to as "Office 365")

Microsoft 365 is a comprehensive set of productivity tools from Microsoft, including some of the better-known tools such as Word (word processing), Excel (spreadsheets), Outlook (email and calendar), PowerPoint (presentations), and Access (database applications), as well as other new or less commonly known tools of real impact in the educational arena, including Publisher, Teams, and Sway.

Teams was used extensively across SY2021-22 for teachers and students to work together on class projects, small-group assignments, and other related work. The District continues to use the various Microsoft 365 tools to store and track information regarding schools, administrative facilities, and technology within the District.

5. Microsoft PowerApps

Microsoft PowerApps is a secure cloud-hosted environment that allows quick development of applications for consumption from anywhere, on any device. PowerApps includes built-in prevailing accessibility capabilities. No notable changes leveraging Microsoft PowerApps were introduced during SY2021-22.

6. Microsoft Power BI

Microsoft Power BI is a self-service data platform that is accessible over the internet. This external site replaced the District's legacy program, TUSDStats, and allows data to be made available to external users (the public) and internal users (school and District staff). The District made routine enhancements to evolve Power BI functionality during SY2021-22.

7. Apex Learning

Apex Learning is the online learning platform utilized by the district to provide 6th – 12th grade standards aligned, online courses. Each course is taught by a teacher in the District. This credit-bearing digital curriculum consists of core and elective courses as well as online tutorials. Students in grades 6-12 can take courses online for original credit or for credit recovery toward grade-level advancement or high school graduation.

8. Canvas Learning Management System

Canvas Learning Management System is an online classroom environment where teachers and students connect for learning and academics. Teachers can assign lessons to students, monitor student learning, communicate with each other, share resources and curriculum, and customize the learning experience for various learners. Canvas connects with Synergy SIS (Student Information System - Rostering and Grading) and integrates with many of our TUSD applications for seamless learning.