

From Method to Magnificent

Hardware and software selection to put
the data into use.

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Eric Mitchell
Okaloosa County School District
mitchelle@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us
(850) 689-7149

This process had very few parameters. We needed to create a system that would evaluate teachers on multiple criteria and walkthroughs would be a major part of that process. FCAT scores would be used as a weighted factor to create a final product that would ultimately decide student performance gains that would impact teacher compensation. In the final analysis this was similar to an electronic grade book, only much more simplified.

This is where we started

Origins

- Observations
- The “hand hold” model
- The “hand held” model
- The no WI-FI contingency
- Digital from Day One
- Teachers

Parameters

In observing administrator observations of teachers it was noted:

- Principals can scribble without looking down.
- They take notes without looking up.
- They are very focused at the task at hand.
- They each have their own version of shorthand.
- They like legal pads.
- They preferred to take notes during, and then convert to structure later.
- It was very obvious that they knew what to look for and when to look for it.

Observations

It is necessary to evaluate the technical skills and daily activities of your principals and other evaluators. From this knowledge we developed the “hand hold” model composed of the following concepts:

- Familiar /comfortable interfaces
- 1 click to evaluation ready.
- Built in timelines that will integrate with Outlook’s calendar.
- Built in communication that integrates with Outlook Email.
- Process meters
- Seamless integration
- Preloaded sentence starters
- Shorthand drop boxes

Software must be found that would allow us to do this.

The “Hand Hold” model

From the beginning our Superintendent was determined to do this on handheld devices with these features:

- They have to be able to auto fill, but also write.
 - Stylus over finger writing
- Size and weight are important
 - Laptops are clunky when trying to be an invisible observer.
- Legal pads were the norm, so whatever device they used should be comfortable .

Now all we had to do was find software that would allow us to do this on a tablet.

The “Hand Held” model

The next challenge is that 90% of our classrooms are not WI-FI and this was a significant cost issue. This added these requirements:

- More was needed than a web enabled product.
 - Sync capability either through an “App” or through software install.
 - Multilayered save capability.
 - The need to work on more than one record at a time before syncing again.
 - The need to be able to back up my progress.
- System has to be able to transition as WI-FI access is added.

Now all we had to do was find software that would allow us to do this on a tablet in a non WI-FI environment.

The No WI-FI Contingency

One other important requirement is for this entire process to be paperless. At the end you may want to print a copy for your records, but ultimately paperless from start to finish. To start out on paper and have to re-enter data is unacceptable.

Now all we had to do was find software that would allow us to do this on a tablet in a non WI-FI environment and have it up and running by the start of the 2011-2012 school year.

Digital From Day One

The primary emphasis to this point was on software selection. Now the focus turned to the teachers because their evaluation and cooperation would be affected by this.

- The system must provide digital two-way communication between the evaluator and the teacher.
- The system must be user friendly and easily customized
- Instant updates and notifications are necessary in a timely manner.
- The system must integrate with the electronic tools already in use for professional development.
- Teachers must have faith in the system, proven by its validity and reliability over time.

Teachers

Program Requirements:

- Web Based
- Ready on Day One
- WIFI and non-WIFI Capable
- Easy to Use
- Comfortable for Evaluators
- Seamless Integration
- Handheld Device Capable
- Easy to interpret results from Multiple sources.

Recap

We've narrowed our selection to two vendors.

1) My Learning Plan (OASYS)

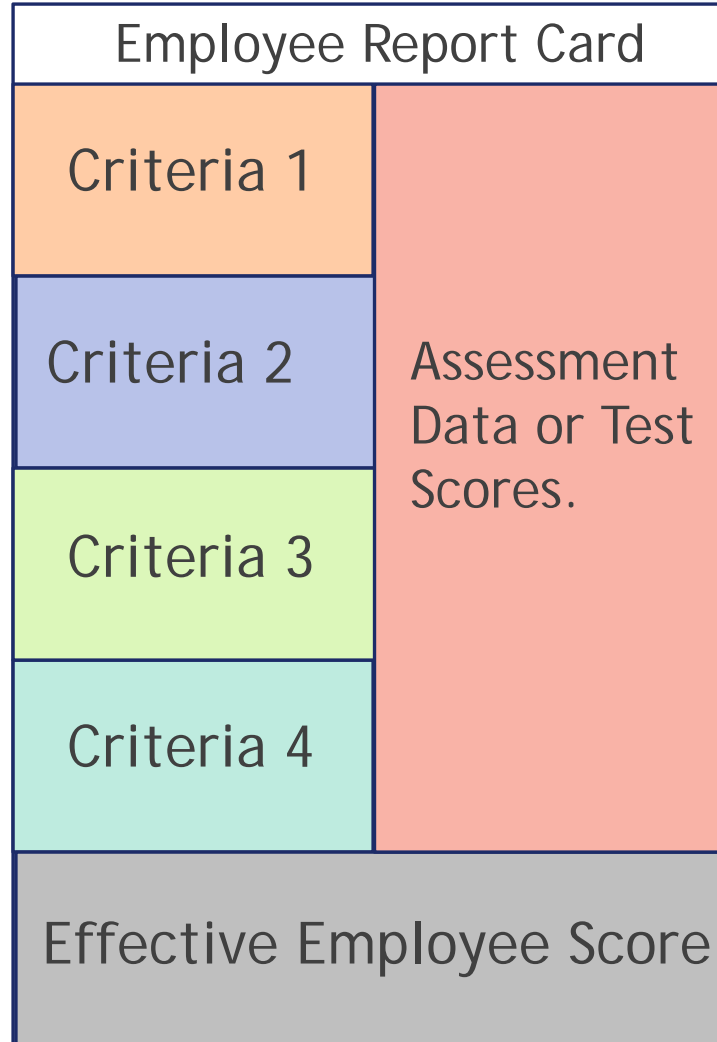
- * Already familiar with the interface
- * All our integration needs are covered
- * Price
- * We create our own forms
- * Integrates with AS400 (Terms)
- * Web based, tablet ready, non-WIFI for tablets available in June.

2) GlobalScholar (Pinnacle)

- * Already familiar with the interface
- * We create our own forms
- * Integrates with AS400 (Terms)
- * Web based, tablet ready, non-WIFI for tablets available in June.
 - * We know their grade book systems have done this successfully in the past.

Software Selection

OASYS collects, scores, and displays criteria data.



MIS must transfer all assessment data (FCAT, EOC, AP/IB, DEA, BASI)

OASYS Calculates Final Score and transmits back to AS400.

Bringing It All Together