

The dirty DOZEN

top 12 challenges schools face today...

and the path to overcome them.



1

Shrinking Budgets

Inadequate funding forces schools to increase class sizes, cut curriculum, eliminate teaching positions, and shift costs for paper, printing and other supplies to parents – leading to today's unfortunate education mantra: Doing More with Less.

2

Meaningful Feedback

Teachers, parents, and students agree that **letter grades do not provide students with enough feedback or motivation to improve**, especially when it comes to project-based learning, and other student-centered teaching techniques; however, many are unsure about how to make the shift to more meaningful standards-based learning.

3

Vision and Alignment

Districts failing to make major improvements in their schools often don't have a clear, consistent vision for success. With buy-in from the school system, parents and community, as well as the resources to support that vision, leaders are better able to make tough decisions resulting in dramatic improvement.

4

Strong, Effective Curriculum

Creating a strong link between curriculum, standards and assessment, as well as connecting learning to students' personal interests and goals is a balancing act. Without effective professional development and systems and processes for measuring efficacy, curriculum falls short.

Teacher Retention

Finding teachers is difficult, and keeping them nearly impossible. **15% of all teachers leave the profession after the first year** and more than 50% leave within the first five years, citing lack of time and resources as one of the biggest contributing factors.

5

6

Teacher Effectiveness

Teachers spend so much of their day performing administrative tasks such as lesson planning, grading, tracking student attendance, and copying and distributing papers, that **minimal time in the day is left to actually focus on what they really want to do - teach.**

7

Parental Engagement

When parents, school and community members work together to support teaching and learning, student achievement increases, kids behave better, and graduation rates increase. The challenge? **How to effectively keep the lines of communication open between home and school.**

8

Access to Student Resources

Without access to student information such as upcoming assignments, progress reports, school events, and class activities, **parents quickly become disconnected from their child's school life**, causing student achievement to suffer.

9

Understanding New Ways of Learning

Without a clear understanding of learning outcomes, parents may **question the value of** assigned activities that involve project-based learning, peer-to-peer learning, and other **student-centered teaching techniques**.

10

Disengagement

Almost eight in 10 elementary students are engaged with school. By middle school, that falls to about six in 10 students. And **by high school, only four in 10 students qualify as engaged**, most commonly citing a disconnect between the way their teachers teach and how they actually learn.

11

Dropout Prevention

High school dropouts are 72 percent more likely to be unemployed than **high school graduates**, and about three times as likely as those who have finished high school to slip into poverty from one year to the next. See #10 above!

12

One Size Does Not Fit All

Students come to the classroom with a range of previous knowledge and experience. With the pressures of standardized testing, and **minimal time for teachers to personalize learning experiences**, students are left without choice and voice, and can quickly become disengaged.



Your solution for The Dirty Dozen

If one or more of these Dirty Dozen issues sound all too familiar, **itslearning** has a solution for you.

A single platform for educators, students and parents, **itslearning** addresses the major challenges faced by schools and districts today, from increasing teacher effectiveness to enabling parents to become more involved in their children's education.

Our award-winning K-12 learning management system ties together all the instructional needs of educators, including curriculum development and planning; delivery of courses and instructional activities; student assessment; and data analysis, including standards mastery reporting.

Teachers use **itslearning** every day to access professional development, collaborate with peers, create assessments, personalize instruction, deliver and track assignments, and review student achievement.

And with an 85%+ global user adoption rate, we know it's a tool that teachers, students, and parents use and depend on.

Contact us for a free demonstration, and we'll show you how to turn The Dirty Dozen into an Educator's Delight!

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