5 industry insights to help you stay on top of the field.

Superintendent Summary

A summary of points from multiple superintendent surveys to help you benchmark - where does my district stand in comparison?

Spending: Superintendents plan to increase spending in the 2024/2025 school year in the following areas: (the percent is the percentage of those surveyed who planned to increase - Titon Partners)

- Faculty and staff (47%)
- Student support services (46%)
- Classroom learning software (41%)
- Professional development (39%)
- Administrative software (38%)
- Instructional materials (37%)
- Hardware and IT infrastructure (37%)
- Facilities (30%)

Policymaking:

The majority of superintendents surveyed said they engage with state policymakers "a few times per year". The second highest percentage was "never". They all noted they were not spending enough time engaging with policymakers but cited lack of resources, proximity to state policy makers, and size of district as obstacles. (Spencer Foundation)

School Board Relationships:

Three reasons superintendent and school board relationships falter: (CEPARE Rapid Research Brief)

- Poor communication
- Power struggles
- Lack of shared vision

Teacher salaries - In 2024, the national average starting teacher salary is $44,530. The national average teacher salary is $69,544. The top 10 states (California, NY, MA being the top three) salaries range from $95,160 to $76,371.

Teacher Collaboration

The article with the highest interest in our last newsletter was related to creating opportunities for teachers to collaborate.

Since this was of great interest, we wanted to share more on this topic.

Per an article in Edutopia, one principal shared three teacher collaboration practices that are bringing strong results:

- Teachers share work products on a common drive.
- Teacher preparation time is aligned by grade level, creating grade-level teams.
- Protocols and agendas are set up to help conflicting personalities learn to appreciate each other and work well together.

Read full article here

Eyes on Tech

Our last newsletter noted cybersecurity as an issue. Since then a new report places cybersecurity as **the number one priority*** of edtech leaders. (State of Edtech Leadership Report)

Rounding out the top four priorities:

✔Data privacy and security

✔Networking infrastructure

✔Determining A.I. strategy

But tech doesn't get the benefits envisioned if not implemented properly.

The top challenge in tech implementations as noted in that same report?

Budget constraints and lack of resources.

Our tech implementation playbook addresses both issues.

Get the Playbook Here

Leadership

Teachers, staff, superintendents all are called to lead in different ways. Leadership skills are always in need of a refresh.

But who has the time.

A quick video for a leadership refresher. Less than 2 minutes on who makes it as a Navy Seal.

Worth the watch

Student Absenteeism

Putting a number to the problem - 1 in 4 students nationwide miss 10% of school days.

Several tactics have been tried, such as door knocking campaigns and videos discussing how it is cool to be in school, many of which are working well.

As an article in Edweek.org noted, one key tool is connectedness with an adult.

"School connectedness is as close as we have to a universal prevention measure," *he said. "You have to believe there's an adult who knows and cares about you as a* *person … This is where we as a nation have to double down."*

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