THE STEW
Quarterly ESU 2 Data Newsletter

October 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Big Things Happening in eduCLIMBER Across ESU

School district personnel across ESU 2 are embracing eduCLIMBER for all it has to offer. With the variety of features available, there's something for everyone. Here is this edition's "spotlight" feature and how users are implementing it within their schools:

SmartFORMS

Forms and documents are a near-universal part of any educator's day. Meeting agendas, IEP's, interventions - it seems like every aspect of the job, both formal and informal, requires documentation. All of this data requires a format that is easy to use, store, and retrieve for future use.

EduCLIMBER, built with this in mind, has a "smart" answer for the documentation needs of its users. SmartFORMS are a major upgrade to other document solutions.

First, there are thousands of templates from which to choose.

You can also edit these templates or build them from scratch to replicate forms you commonly use.

Forms can be shared with and edited by multiple users, and are stored within eduCLIMBER for easy retrieval or future edits. Student-specific forms can be attached to student records within eduCLIMBER for quick reference at any time.

But what really sets apart smartFORMS from what you may be using now (and what makes them "smart") is their ability to both automatically display and collect data.

SmartFORMS can also be set up to collect data. Your database of completed and in-progress forms is searchable across a variety of fields.

With the "DataID" feature, users can track, for example, how many times a "checkbox" field has been selected district-wide, or to calculate statistics from "numeric" fields. Some ESU 2 users are already putting smartFORMS to good use:

Cedar Bluffs counselor **Tommy Gerrish** has developed a form to track the underlying causes of student visits to his office. He can use that data in the future to address areas of need within the school, as well as to better track individual students' needs over time.

In West Point, instructional coaches **Taylor Shepard** and **Jill Redmond** are using smartFORMS to track classroom instructional data during walkthroughs and observations. This data will inform future staff development efforts, as well as lead to richer, more informative conversations with individual teachers.

Create forms for a variety of purposes. The teacher evaluation/walkthrough smartFORM pictured above includes checkboxes set to capture data every time one of the fields is selected. SmartFORMS can also be set to automatically display student data, useful for any student-centered, data-driven meeting.

> *"I'm planning to use the forms to run grade level meetings more efficiently and to gather classroom data."*
>
> - **Jill Redmond, Instructional Coach West Point Elementary**

> *"The smartFORMS feature within eduCLIMBER has greatly increased the efficiency of our Nebraska Reads and 504 identification processes. The thresholds and forms we've created help us more easily generate parent/guardian communications while providing necessary and appropriate materials to those attending our meetings."*
>
> **-Dr. Josh Snyder, Director of Learning Wahoo Public Schools**

Quarter 1 "Shout-outs"

A district-by-district look at just a few of the interesting things ESU 2 users are doing with student data:

In **Ashland-Greenwood**, Elementary Assistant Principal *Megan Poell* is a seasoned eduCLIMBER afficionado. She and her staff are monitoring the progress of dozens of students using eduCLIMBER's Interventions tool.

One of the many simple but effective features of eduCLIMBER is the ability to disaggregate student data using custom labels, or Tags. **Fremont Public Schools** is using this feature to more easily compare the progress of their in-person students with distance learners this fall.
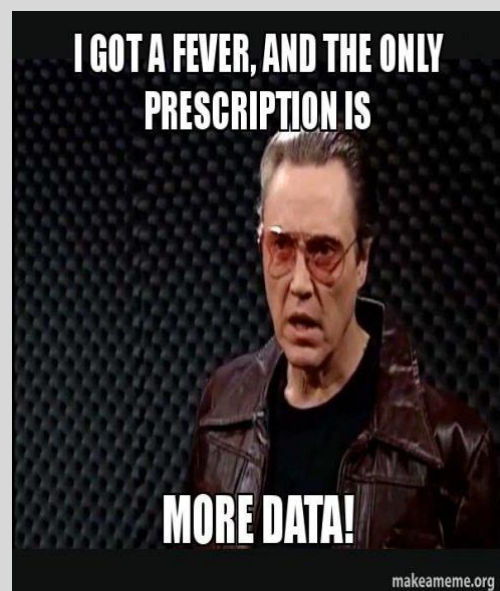
In **Lyons-Decatur**, the school's data leadership team is utilizing Collections within eduCLIMBER, specifically data walls, to track student growth and performance on several key measures of progress and achievement.

In **Mead**, a portion of their fall data day was spent with all staff viewing MAP scores via eduCLIMBER.

Secondary counselor *Dawn Moser* has used eduCLIMBER to schedule meetings and record minutes and notes from those meetings.

Jennifer Karnatz, Special Education Coordinator at **North Bend Central**, is exploring how eduCLIMBER can help her and her staff probe instructional strengths and weaknesses by making it easy to access disaggregated data to compare students across key demographics.

At **Oakland-Craig**, *Jess Bland* (Elementary Principal) and *Michelle Burton* (Secondary Principal) are using eduCLIMBER to get staff more involved with data-driven decision-making. Elementary school teachers are using the Assessment Builder to enter custom data for their new K-2 reading program.

Send me your favorite "data meme" for possible inclusion in the Q2 Newsletter - coming in January...

"Things get done only if the data we gather can inform and inspire those in a position to make a difference."

-   Mike Schmoker

Data "Bites": Musings of a Data Steward

As of this edition, I have been "on the job" as the ESU 2 Data Steward for a little over three months. After teaching middle school social studies in Lincoln Public Schools for ten years, it was a bittersweet transition, especially while not being able to properly say "goodbye" to the classroom and my students and coworkers last spring.

However, I really wanted the opportunity to grow professionally in a setting that matched my skills and interests. But I miss the students, the beginning-of-the-year rites of passage, and all of the magical moments that happen in the classroom.

Being part of the ESU 2 community has been a great experience. I've learned so much about aspects of education I didn't even realize that I didn't know. I've witnessed the overwhelming competence, passion, and professionalism of ESU 2 and school district staff. And, I've had the privilege of visiting several lovely Nebraska schools and communities for the very first time. I am very impressed!

I very much appreciate the relationships I have been building with many of you and look forward to getting to know all of you even better in the coming months! Never hesitate to let me know how I can make your job easier.

-Cole Pomeroy, ESU 2 Data Steward

THE STEW
Quarterly
ESU 2 Data
Newsletter

eduCLIMBER

Powered by *illuminate education*

Educational Service Unit #2
2320 N. Colorado Ave.
Fremont, NE 68025
Email: cpomeroy@esu2.org