

How Bow School District Is Redefining College and Career Readiness in New Hampshire



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Bow & Dunbarton School District

Bow & Dunbarton School District, nestled in the picturesque town of Bow, New Hampshire, is dedicated to fostering student success through innovative tools and personalized guidance. As the first district in the state to adopt SchoolLinks for high schools, Bow is redefining its approach to college and career readiness (CCR). Kate Kulacz, the Director of School Counseling, has been instrumental in driving the district's adoption of SchoolLinks.

Streamlining CCR Processes

SchoolLinks has revolutionized how Bow High School tracks graduation requirements. Features like the Experience Tracker allow students to digitally log their community service and career hours, replacing cumbersome paper forms.

According to Kulacz, this feature alone has saved countless hours for both students and staff.

“Once students learn how to navigate the system, they can manage their hours effortlessly,” she says.

By digitizing these processes, the district has eliminated time-consuming manual tasks, enabling counselors to focus on meaningful interactions with students rather than administrative duties.

Simplified Event Management

Managing college, career, and military fairs has never been easier. SchoolLinks' event management tools streamline invitations, communications, and follow-ups with participants. Kulacz notes, “Colleges only need to register once, which saves time for future events. It's a game changer for our team.” Students benefit from centralized access to event details, keeping them informed and engaged.

“SchoolLinks offered everything we wanted and more. It's a perfect blend of our past needs and our future goals.”

The platform also facilitates better communication with participating organizations, making it easier to coordinate logistics and maintain relationships for future events. Whether hosting a college fair, career day, or military fair, SchoolLinks ensures a smooth process from start to finish.

Empowering Students and Teachers

SchoolLinks places more autonomy in students' hands, helping them track tasks and manage their post-secondary planning independently. Teachers have also embraced the platform, especially for its streamlined recommendation letter submission process. Kulacz shares, "The flow is so much easier. Teachers upload their letters, and it's one and done."

By shifting more responsibility to students, SchoolLinks fosters independence and encourages them to take ownership of their academic and career planning. The system's transparency and efficiency have been a welcome change for both students and educators.

Exploring Work-Based Learning Opportunities

The district is in the early stages of utilizing SchoolLinks' work-based learning tools. These features aim to simplify tracking internships and apprenticeships, replacing outdated, paper-based processes. Kulacz acknowledges the learning curve but is optimistic about the potential to expand opportunities for students.

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We're excited to explore how SchoolLinks can support internships and apprenticeships, making these opportunities more accessible and easier to manage," Kulacz explains. By digitizing these processes, the district is laying the groundwork for a more comprehensive approach to work-based learning.

Advice for Other Districts

Kulacz encourages schools adopting SchoolLinks to invest time in customizing the platform's scope and sequence. "Start with what your school is already doing, and add features gradually," she advises. This phased approach allows districts to implement changes without overwhelming staff or students.

She also emphasizes the importance of aligning SchoolLinks with existing curriculum and counseling practices, ensuring a seamless integration that supports both students and educators.

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Furthermore, districts are advised to lean on SchoolLinks' customer support team during the transition. "Their responsiveness is invaluable," Kulacz shares. "Whenever we encounter challenges, the support team is quick to help us find solutions, which has been crucial for our successful rollout." She also suggests setting realistic timelines for implementation, allowing staff and students to fully adapt to the platform's capabilities.

A Vision for the Future

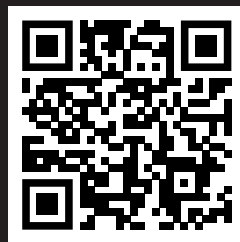
While still early in its SchoolLinks journey, Bow High School is excited about the platform's potential to enhance CCR culture. Kulacz envisions a future where every student seamlessly navigates their post-secondary planning. "SchoolLinks has already transformed how we work. The possibilities are endless," she concludes.

With SchoolLinks at the helm, Bow School District is charting a new path for college and career readiness in New Hampshire, proving that with the right tools and vision, innovation can lead to lasting success for students and educators alike.

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