

For Immediate Release

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WARREN CITY SCHOOLS ROLLS OUT PROGRESSBOOK AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

K-12 Classroom/Student/District Management Solution
Helps Districts Boosts Academic Achievement with Parent Involvement

Cleveland, OH - September 20, 2011 – Warren City Schools in Warren, Ohio has completed their conversion to **ProgressBook** for the 2011-2012 school year. ProgressBook is a student, classroom and district management web application used by public school districts, private schools and education service centers for teachers and administrators to create lesson plans using state standards, enter and manage student grades, online progress reports and report cards and more. ProgressBook also has a parent/student portal providing 24/7 access to student grades, attendance, homework and school resources.

According to **Mark Reesing, Software Answers, Sales and Marketing Director**, “Typically, a new district or school adopting ProgressBook is great news, but not something we shout out to the world. This was a unique situation. For technology services, Warren City Schools depends on NEOMIN, one of the State of Ohio’s 23 Information Technology Centers (ITC). NEOMIN’s school district members chose ProgressBook for the 2012-2013 school year and Warren Schools simply didn’t want to wait until then, so they rolled out ProgressBook one year earlier.”

Warren City Schools has 5,500 students. The 1,671-student high school building is the first to start using ProgressBook; the attendance feature was used on day one by approximately 150 educators and administrative staff. Teachers received a several hour crash course days before students began. **Mark Leiby, Exec. Director of State and Federal Programs and Technology for Warren City Schools** said, “Introducing ProgressBook included big change with a very rapid rollout, but we had a strong comfort level knowing the system is used by the majority of school districts in our state and has a proven track record. Also, the high school principal has embraced ProgressBook and teachers know this is not optional. The first weeks went very well.”

NEOMIN’s ProgressBook support team converted Warren’s legacy system data (students, demographics, scheduling, teachers) to ProgressBook and archived grade book history. Teachers trained using test databases and their complete list of students and classes appeared in the live system prior to school opening. The remaining five Warren school buildings will roll out ProgressBook in 2012-2013, along with NEOMIN’s other 30+ school districts.

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Parents of Warren students played a big part in the push to get ProgressBook up and running earlier - rather than later. Mr. Leiby said, “We believe ProgressBook is the right tool for our district to accomplish increased parent involvement which is invaluable for improving student academic achievement. In mid-October once the staff is more comfortable and confident with this technology, we’ll provide parents and students with ProgressBook user names and passwords so they can access attendance, homework, see grades and online progress reports.”

Training databases are still available for staff to practice. During the first few months of school professional development sessions are planned for additional learning on grade book, creating lesson plans, and how to post student progress to ProgressBook’s Parent Access portal. Teachers are actively using ProgressBook’s seating charts to take attendance and the district plans to upload student photos soon.

Until now, Warren teachers had used a variety of unsanctioned teacher systems. ProgressBook is Warren City Schools’ first official, district-wide electronic grade book and portal for parents and students.

About Software Answers, Inc. - [Software Answers](http://www.software-answers.com) provides K-12 school districts with web-based student, classroom and district-wide solutions. ProgressBook™ is Software Answers’ flagship product used by educators, parents and students to increase teacher efficiency, align education with state standards, and increase parent involvement in children’s education processes, all helping to boost student academic achievement. ProgressBook is used in 800+ school districts across the U.S., over 75% of Ohio public schools, and is available nationwide. Software Answers also markets additional K-12 applications including Special Services (IEP), DASL (Student Information System) and DataMap, a data intelligence tool used to boost student state-standardized test scores. Software Answers is adding to and enhancing their products to meet and exceed Race to the Top IIS standards. The company is headquartered in Brecksville, a Cleveland, Ohio suburb.

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