Teaching and the Power of Data
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Using Workplace by Facebook is helping school leaders and government officials share crucial data points and collaborate effectively.

Every student deserves a good education - the future of your nation depends on it. In a modern social world where the character traits of an individual are amplified, many teachers are questioning the effectiveness of education at a mass-production level. Teaching, at its core, is about a one-to-one connection but how do teachers share with ministers the data that will provoke positive change? How do ministers hold teachers accountable for driving the change? With communication and transparency, Workplace is directly connecting ministers to teachers and bridging the gap between the administration and the field.

As technology advances, school leaders are discovering the power of data for school improvement. In addition to test results, educators now have access to data about background, character, lifestyle, school climate, and parental involvement. But as schools garner more useful and relevant information than ever before, many ministers still only have access to figures from the annual test results to work with. They want to be able to discuss with teachers directly and open up new lines of communication. They want to be able to give teachers the tools they need to work with students more effectively. Because they know when there is shared access to information about student learning, everyone benefits.

Driving change with data

Data has the potential to transform education. But as long as the distance between ministers and teachers remains vast, the needs of students will suffer. For this transformation to take place, the focus needs to pivot from data collection to data sharing. Because when data stays hidden in the cloud the impact on student achievement will be minimal.

It’s time to make the data work for everyone. So how are education officials realistically communicating with frontline educators (and vice-versa)? They’re doing it with the help of Workplace.
How Workplace by Facebook is bringing data to life

With Workplace, teachers and officials are given the opportunity to be transparent about different types of data. Ministers can be clear about their vision and what they expect from students, and teachers can share what will help them achieve those goals. With open communication, teachers and leaders gain flexibility, training, and the support they need in the classroom.

The education space works best when data is shared, relationships are built, and everyone works as one. And so does Workplace. Workplace is proud to donate work tools to the staff of educational institutions to connect them to the government officials that can action change for good. When students, parents, educators, and partners have the right information to make decisions, students excel.

"It’s really difficult as an educator to stay connected with your colleagues, to communicate across the boundaries of schools and to stay in the know. Tools like Workplace make it easier for teachers to collaborate and learn from each other."

Adam Seldow, Education Partnerships Manager, Facebook
The Workplace Effect at the Australian Catholic University

Sharing data on Workplace is the fastest route to a more focused conversation. But with so much information readily available at their fingertips, how do educators hone in on what’s relevant? The Australian Catholic University (ACU) was founded in 1991 and is renowned for its Catholic values of truth, dignity for others and a commitment to upholding the common good.

With over 2,500 researchers, educators and support staff working across the ACU, they needed to find a way to effectively share the collated student data. So, the management team decided to introduce Workplace to the team to break-down barriers, increase transparency and improve results.

**Sharing stats for impact:** After four months of piloting Workplace, ACU reported a 33% improvement in staff saying that ACU’s communication channels made it easy to share updates on projects.

**Data-driven collaboration:** 76% of staff in the pilot rollout said their sense of connectedness had improved and 63% said that Workplace created more opportunities to collaborate.

**Turning ideas into action:** After studying the figures surrounding the amount of landfill caused by disposable coffee cups, the ACU started a dedicated Workplace Group, which successfully convinced all cafe operators on campus to offer a discount on using reusable cups.

**Working as one:** Using the Workplace features, the university was able to break down the silos between faculty, facility teams, and the administration and share vital statistics with News Feed, Workplace Chat, and Live video.
Workplace collaboration tools to power what’s possible for education:

- Workplace integrates with existing education technology tools like G Suite or Office 365.
- Teachers and ministers come together to share data in open, closed or secret groups.
- Share data and collaborate with real time updates from multiple schools or departments.
- Photos and videos allow ministers to share government updates in rich and engaging ways.
- Integrations with tools like Dropbox provide secure access to files or folders and rich previews.
- Teachers and ministers use mobile apps to share, discuss, and comment on relevant reports.
"Our colleagues have embraced Workplace because it has empowered everyone to share their knowledge, networks, and ideas across the organization. It has helped us break down communication barriers, particularly between employees and senior leaders. It has made our organization stronger."

Dr Stephen Weller, Chief Operating Officer, Australian Catholic University (ACU)
How Workplace works:

Workplace is like a private and secure Facebook community just for your educational organizations. It’s a dedicated and secure space for people to connect, communicate and collaborate. It’s totally separate from consumer Facebook with separate profiles and logins.

Workplace combines familiar Facebook feature with enterprise integrations to get work done, turning previously one-sided communication into a dialogue. And because it’s a tool that 2bn people already know how to use, you can ensure rapid deployment and adoption.

Workplace for Good:

Workplace has always been free for nonprofits and staff of educational institutions. And over the last 2 years, we’ve seen thousands of these organizations using the platform to build meaningful communities all around the world. Here are some examples:

- A Workplace group helps educators and ministers increase transparency between them. Many ministers aren’t able to access data from schools other than annual test results but a group acts like a working document which you can update with local attendance data and other statistics of significance
- Multi-company groups also help colleagues from different communities to share documents, data, and real-time reports with each other in a secure space. They help educators at all levels collaborate and support each other. And by using Multi-company groups, they enable the same efficient and secure collaboration with external suppliers and partners
- Workplace’s HD video conferencing helps organizations host weekly meetings where up to 50 people from the school can come together to share data and updates
- Workplace Chat gives users the ability to move directly into a voice or video call from an existing text chat. It’s ideal for sharing information quickly and with a personal touch that helps build communities from the campuses to the ministry
- The Workplace mobile app has become a critical tool. People share snaps and videos that keep the wider community informed, and leadership staff share selfie videos to deliver quick news updates
- Live broadcasts from ministers connect teachers to the bigger picture. Educators can provide insight over their impact in the classroom beyond the classroom

And the best: Workplace Premium, used by thousands of organizations worldwide including RBS, Danone, Save the Children and the Government of Singapore, is donated free of charge to staff of educational institutions.
Find out how Workplace For Good can help you connect your education system at facebook.com/workplace/m/industry/education

If you’d like to know more, please contact Annette Gevaert, Head of Workplace for Good, at agevaert@fb.com