

Great Prairie Area Education Agency takes advantage of the power and practical simplicity of **WebReg** to enable thousands of teachers and administrators from 40 school districts in the region to enroll in professional learning opportunities.

One of the agency's primary goals is that all students will improve their performance, and research suggests that effective teaching has the most direct impact on student achievement. Great Prairie chose WebReg, from My Learning Plan Inc., to manage all aspects of the registration and payment processes, and to ensure thorough tracking and clear reporting to meet agency, district, and State requirements. WebReg has enabled Great Prairie to provide a variety of professional development experiences on an ongoing basis with ease. Across more than 6,000 square miles, participants can access the user-friendly online catalog to view and register for professional development opportunities anywhere and at any time to help enhance instruction and student outcomes.

Advertising Professional Learning Offerings

Before using WebReg, Great Prairie printed quarterly paper catalogs to get the word out about their professional development offerings. It was difficult to adequately reach all possible participants in a timely manner as opportunities were updated, while the cost of printing paper catalogs was significant and managing registrations was a protracted process.

With WebReg, the online catalog is revised frequently and the opportunities are filtered by department and location to ensure that each user sees appropriate offerings. The calendar view displays the catalog in a graphical format and scheduling conflicts are minimized when districts or departments overlay their own calendars. Best of all, WebReg enabled Great Prairie staff resources to be re-allocated more efficiently.

Great Prairie: At a Glance

- Located in Southeast Iowa
- 6,360 square miles
- 3,700 teachers and administrators served
- 40 school districts served
- MyLearningPlan customer since 2005

Meeting a Variety of Needs

Katie Gavin, Professional Development Coordinator for Great Prairie, appreciates the versatility of the system to flexibly address a number of needs. Through WebReg, the agency offers registration for conferences, classes, meetings, and PD sessions, and

they easily customize the session descriptions and enrollment options to address different departmental requirements. Great Prairie is also able to provide a variety of customizable and secure payment options, including checks, credit cards/ e-checks, PayPal, and purchase orders. Variable pricing even allows the agency to enroll certain participants for a reduced fee. Everyone can easily access the professional learning they need to help increase student achievement.

"WebReg has greatly reduced the costs associated with mailing transcripts, answering phone calls and returning emails from participants."

—Katie Gavin, Professional Development Coordinator for Great Prairie Area Education Agency

FAST
AND
EASY

“By giving our instructors the ability to modify courses online, we will reduce redundancies, thus, keeping our management time low and efficiency high.”

—Katie Gavin, Professional Development Coordinator for Great Prairie Area Education Agency

Archiving and Record Keeping

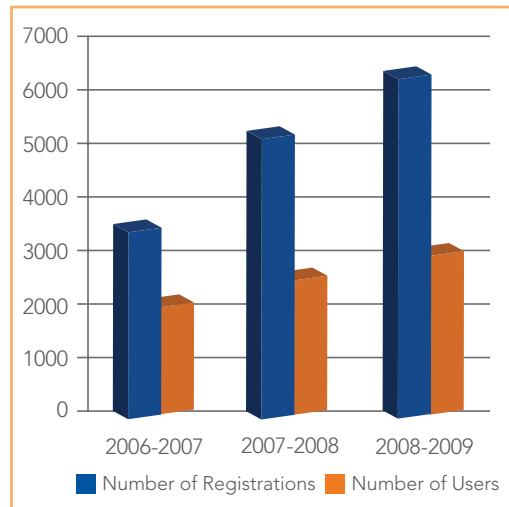
While participants engage in professional learning, WebReg tracks all of the information, so that resulting reports allow Great Prairie leaders to examine and evaluate trends in terms of activities provided and enrollees to facilitate data-driven decision-making about future programs. The system allows the agency to create standard evaluation forms to collect reflections and feedback and share summary reports with instructors to support continuous improvement.

Participants are empowered to view and print their own completion certificates, and information about hours and credits earned is automatically added to each user's online portfolio. The portfolio can move with each educator regardless of which district they serve in, and they can check the status of their activities at any time. Gavin reports that “WebReg has greatly reduced the costs associated with mailing transcripts, answering phone calls and returning emails from participants.”

In addition, WebReg provides a number of system reports and customized options to facilitate reporting back to school districts and to the Iowa Department of Education. With WebReg, Great Prairie has the data necessary to maximize resources in identified high need areas, so everyone benefits.

Expanding Capabilities

A valuable outcome of using WebReg has been the steady increase in registration counts and new users from year to year. Since Great Prairie launched WebReg during the 2006-2007 school year, the agency has seen a 20%–30% increase in the number of registrations each year. Further, roughly 500 new users have participated in their professional development offerings. Due to WebReg, Great Prairie is reaching significantly more users without having to add staff to manage the influx of work.



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Moving Forward

Great Prairie plans to forge even closer collaborative relationships with districts by permitting instructors to propose their course ideas directly through WebReg. The agency expects that this enhanced use of WebReg will facilitate increased ownership in the process, while saving the agency data entry time.

In partnership with their area districts, and with the support of WebReg, Great Prairie is providing quality, relevant, and targeted professional learning opportunities to achieve their vision of becoming the recognized leader in services that improve student performance.

MyLearningPlan[®] is the leading web-based system used by educational organizations to plan, manage and evaluate their professional learning initiatives. WebReg is a fully integrated companion service, which offers online enrollment management for providers of professional development. Based in Great River, NY, My Learning Plan Inc. has customers throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and the Middle East. For more information, please visit www.MyLearningPlan.com.