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Pro Tracking in Educational Software

Point 1: Tracking helps teachers maintain control of their students when using technology

- Companies exist that help teachers keep track of their student's screens and to make sure they stay on task.
- Students struggle to stay on task when presented with an electronic device
 - "About two-thirds of U.S. students reported that they get distracted by using digital devices, and about 54 percent said they get distracted by other students who are using those resources, the PISA results found." [1]
 - "However, we all know that digital devices can also be an impediment to education, insofar as they enable students who are prone to distraction to indulge in the illusion that they can multitask at no cost to their learning. In a 2015 survey of college students in 26 different states, undergraduates reported using their digital devices for non-classroom purposes an average of 11.7 times per day in class, accounting for an average of 21% of class time (McCoy, 2016). In a survey conducted by Tindell and Bohlander (2011), 92% of college students reported using their phones to send text messages during class." [2]

Point 2: Tracking helps schools help students learn and prevent dropouts

- Schools may be able to track and detect students that may drop out using their academic data and provide aid
 - "Even though high school dropout rates are going down, the US still faces a huge 40% college dropout rate every year." [3]
- Schools can personalize learning to help students highlight their strengths and work on their weaknesses
 - "Engaged learners are 2.5 times more likely to complete a course, which emphasizes the importance of maintaining learner engagement through data tracking. By monitoring learner data, course administrators can pinpoint areas where learners struggle and modify the content or delivery methods to enhance engagement, ultimately leading to higher course completion rates." [3]
 - "Student progress monitoring increases accountability and motivation. Publicly committing to a goal can improve the likelihood of achieving it by 33%. Seeing their progress encourages learners to stay focused on their goals and work harder to achieve them." [3]
 - Allows schools to exit one size fits all mold

Point 3: Prevent Bullying

- Schools can use algorithms to identify factors leading to bullying and prevent them
 - "Data-driven software to predict locations, time of misbehavior or violence" [4]
- Apps already exist to prevent cyberbullying

- Students are unlikely to report it
 - Among students who report being victims of cyberbullying, 23 percent will turn to a teacher first for help.”[5]

Point 4: Early Detection

- School wide screening programs exist already for suicide
- “Today, 91% of school administrators feel that schools should make efforts to prevent suicide among students. Similarly, 92% believe that schools should make efforts to identify high school students in need of mental health services”[6]
- Suicide is rising
 - “42% of high school students reported feelings of sadness or hopelessness in the past year.”[5]
 - “22% of high school students reported having seriously considered suicide in the past year.”[5]
 - “10% of high school students attempted suicide in the past year.” [6]

[1]

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/digital-distractions-in-class-linked-to-lower-academic-performance/2023/12#:~:text=About%20two%2Dthirds%20of%20U.S.,resources%2C%20the%20PISA%20results%20found.>

[2]

<https://bokcenter.harvard.edu/technology-and-student-distraction>

[3]

<https://www.educate-me.co/blog/tracking-student-data>

[4]

https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep02461?searchText=cameras+in+schools&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3Dcameras%2Bin%2Bschools%26so%3Drel&ab_segments=0%2Fbasic_search_gsv2%2Fcontrol&refreqid=fastly-default%3Af7c7191a59b72bd2dacacf9b13d7747a

[5]

<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/helping-students-deal-cyberbullies>

[6]

https://www.jstor.org/stable/26784445?searchText=suicide%20and%20data%20tracking%20for%20students&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3Dsuiicide%2BAnd%2Bdata%2Btracking%2Bfor%2Bstudents%26so%3Drel&ab_segments=0%2Fbasic_search_gsv2%2Fcontrol&refreqid=fastly-default%3A6c49504bb260d73cee6daa5d10770957