AdvancED® Integrates PDFreactor into eProve™ School Improvement Platform
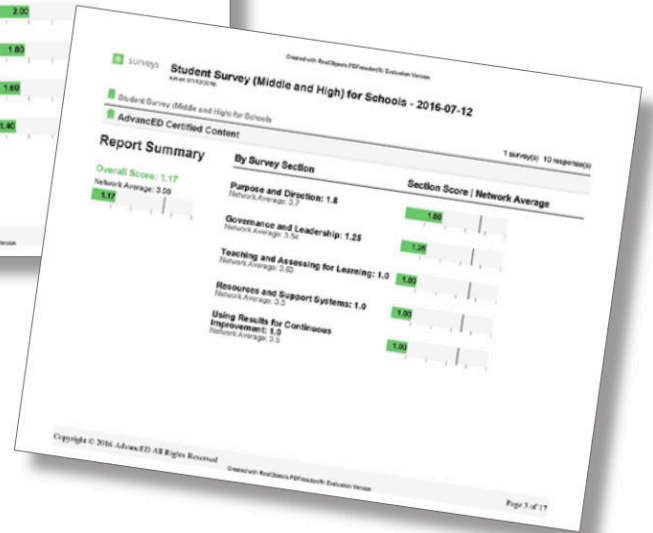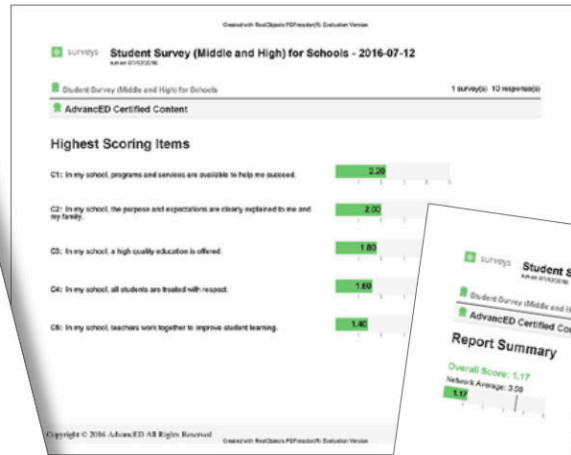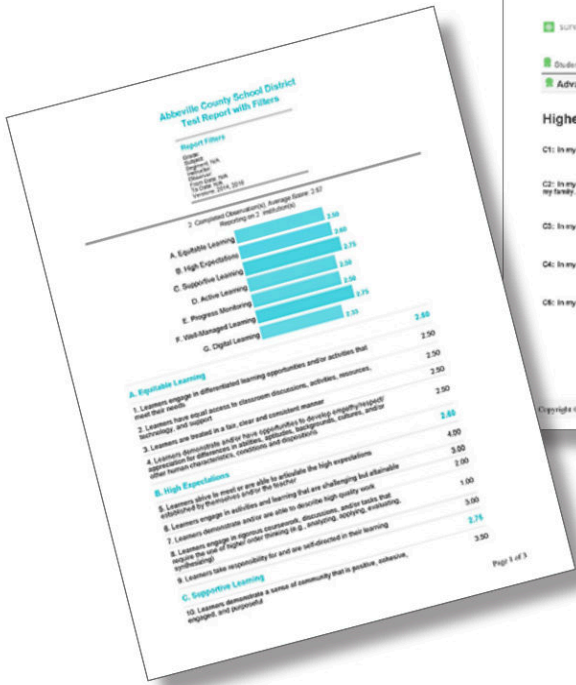
AdvancED is the largest community of education professionals in the world. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization that conducts rigorous, on-site external reviews of Pre-K-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential. While our expertise is grounded in more than a hundred years of work in school accreditation, AdvancED is far from a typical accrediting agency. Our goal isn't to certify that schools are good enough. Rather, our commitment is to help schools improve.

Combining the knowledge and expertise of a research institute, the skills of a management consulting firm and the passion of a grassroots movement for educational change, we serve as a trusted partner to 34,000 schools and school systems —employing more than four million educators and enrolling more than 20 million students—across the United States and 70 other nations.

As a leading developer of educational technologies, AdvancED has designed our own suite of web-based dynamic diagnostic tools to support school improvement efforts. Most recently, AdvancED introduced the next generation school improvement platform – eProve™. The eProve platform is comprised of several applications that use common platform RESTful APIs and services for various functional areas, PDF generation being one of these common services used by each application for its PDF reporting needs.

"PDFreactor has been great to work with. The Java library is robust and full-featured, with rich XSLT syntax and reliable performance. CSS3 and HTML5 support have proven critical in our implementation and enabled us to create great looking reports. Documentation and prompt support communication have been extremely helpful and allowed for quick and easy adoption by our development team. We have full confidence that PDFreactor will continue as the PDF library of choice at AdvancED."

– Aleksei Tolompoiko, Director of Software Development

One of the key features of the eProve product offering is the ability to generate rich and visually appealing PDF reports. Previously, the PDF generation layer used iText, a popular Java PDF library, for programmatic construction of PDF documents. One of the drawbacks of this library had been the inability to customize and enrich PDF output without having to write custom Java code for each customization, which has proven effort and resource intensive.

A new, flexible and feature-rich PDF solution was needed, and after careful analysis and testing of several leading products, the decision was made to use PDFreactor, the market-leading product featuring advanced customization and cutting-edge visual design capabilities.

Integration of PDFreactor Java library in the PDF generation platform service has addressed the key concerns and provided easy template-based customization while allowing decoupling of the data and presentation layers. The data is presented by eProve applications in an easy to consume XML format, and PDF rendering logic is encapsulated in the XSLT templates, which can be adjusted and customized without any changes to the application code.

Several key PDF reports have been implemented and currently are used by AdvancED customers daily. PDFreactor has performed flawlessly and provided the needed flexibility along with appealing visual presentation.

Conclusion

AdvancED has a notable history of developing innovative education improvement technology solutions used by customers worldwide. PDFreactor has allowed AdvancED to take its PDF reports, a critical customer-facing feature, to the next level of freedom with modern visual design and flexibility.

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