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Smarter Movement Better Outcomes

The Ultimate Digital Hall Pass Guide for Educators.

Introduction

Creating an environment that is conducive to learning is a clear priority for all K-12 school leaders and educators. Yet efforts to keep students safe and focused can be at odds with typical adolescent behaviors like goofing off and congregating with friends.

While in the classroom, or in the hallway between periods, these behaviors can be addressed by teachers. However, when students leave the classroom they are off the teacher's radar and that can lead to poor behavior and safety issues that are top of mind for educators everywhere:



Loitering

On restroom breaks, students can congregate and loiter for extended periods of time. Schools need encounter prevention to keep specific groups of students from meeting up outside of class. Allowing only one student to visit the restroom at a time can stymie such congregating, but just one loiterer can cause a backlog of students with good reason to leave.

Loitering can directly impact a student's academic life, creating a vicious cycle as they miss instruction, fall behind, and then react by taking more breaks.



Vaping

The Centers for Disease Control identifies schools as "ground zero" for the youth e-cigarette epidemic. The **2022 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS)** on e-cigarette use among U.S. youth found that 14.1% (2.14 million) of high school students and 3.3% (380,000) of middle school students reported current e-cigarette use.

Students addicted to e-cigarettes may find lasting an entire class period without vaping to be a challenge. Restroom breaks offer the opportunity they need to vape without being observed.



Safety in Emergencies

In the event of an emergency like a fire or intruder, teachers need to know where every student is located so they can be accounted for and protected.

Hall passes have been the time-honored method of authorizing students to leave the classroom, but they are an analog solution in an increasingly complex educational environment.

Student Movement Management

Whether your K-12 school is big or small, students spend crucial class time in your hallways. The reality is that most administrators and teachers have no way of knowing how many students are in the hallways at a particular moment, and that can exacerbate behavioral and safety issues.

Digital hall passes are an accurate digital track record that makes it easy to see where students go when they leave the classroom. When educators can control the flow of students throughout the school, they can ensure they get the most out of the school day, safely.



How Digital Hall Pass Solutions Work

Digitizing hall passes enables numerous capabilities, increases student accountability, and expands educator visibility.

A digital hall pass is typically created by teachers or students on a device like a smartphone or school-supplied laptop. Passes identify the student's specific destination, like the closest restroom or the library, as opposed to just not in class.

Rules can be set to control how many passes can be approved for a particular student, to block certain students from meeting up outside of class, or to limit the number of students authorized to be in a specific location. Automating these rules saves teachers from having to continuously monitor hall pass activity.

Dashboards allow teachers to see all active passes, including information on where students are coming from and where they're heading. Administrators can view key metrics and analytics for enhanced school situational awareness.

By requiring students to stay on task and document their travels through the hallways, digital hall passes help school staff prevent vandalism and loitering, while simultaneously documenting student activity and ensuring an interruption-free classroom environment.



Benefits of Digital Hall Pass Solutions



Improved Outcomes

With only so many minutes in a class period, teachers must keep students focused and limit distractions. Excessive sign-outs create gaps in instruction and “frequent flyers” cheat themselves of valuable learning time.



Safer Students

In an emergency, identifying which students are in your hallways and away from a teacher is vital so administrators and first responders can pinpoint students with unknown or unsafe locations to provide immediate support.



Access Management

School IDs have become an integral part of many high schools. It allows students to purchase school lunches, check out library books, make copies, and so much more. Some digital hall pass solutions come with integrated digital ID cards that can't be lost or stolen and are always up-to-date.

As you do your due diligence in selecting any classroom technology, we encourage you to use this checklist of features to evaluate whether a digital hall pass solution has all the capabilities your school needs.



Digital hall pass solutions must have:

- An App for a quick and easy way for teachers and staff to know where students are
- Easy integration with your existing SIS
- Compatibility with both existing 1:1 and BYOD devices
- The highest standards for security to keep your student data secure; solutions should not use a student's GPS location
- Data export data for analytics
- Quick and easy implementation
- A high reliability score; frequent outages cause disruptions at every level
- Organization and differentiation of hall passes; by grade level, building area, activity or team
- Special privilege option for students with special considerations
- Scheduling of recurring future passes
- Encounter prevention to prevent groups of students from meeting in the hallways
- Profile pictures to identify who has a hall pass in the hallway and who doesn't
- Management of daily procedures, including late arrivals and early dismissals
- Backlog management for when a pass limit for a room has been reached
- Monitoring of areas outside of the school building, like student parking lots

When considering a Digital ID Solution, it must have:

- Lower cost than current student ID creation
- Easy import of profile pictures from a SIS or third-party photography vendor
- Ability to sync ID numbers or other data from an SIS or CSV file
- Customization to match your school's branding
- A choice of which type of barcode to use
- Ability to add text on the back for important phone numbers or required state info
- Option to add custom fields

Enterprise-level systems to manage student movement are proliferating. As schools re-evaluate old, outdated workflows, they see the upside of systemic, safe, secure solutions that can improve school leaders' ability to understand movement and its impact on culture, streamline processes for teachers, and empower agency in students.

Such systems should not be treated as commodities or acquired solely on price. Functionality is critical, but schools must also evaluate a solution provider's approach to privacy and security, the system's flexibility in serving a wide variety of school needs, and, above all, a teacher- and student-centric approach to design and support.



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