School Grid

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***Abstract*—** School Grid is a comprehensive web-based platform that enhances transparency and accuracy in school evaluations. By leveraging a data-driven approach, it evaluates institutions across multiple performance indicators, allowing schools to submit data, track their rankings, and generate detailed performance reports efficiently.. To ensure credibility, rankings undergo manual expert validation before updates are made.

For parents and students, School Grid offers real-time search, filtering, and comparison features, allowing them to make informed decisions when selecting schools. Built with React for the frontend, Firebase for the backend, and Tailwind CSS for the UI, the platform delivers a seamless user experience with secure authentication, role-based access control, and a scalable data management system.

Keywords: School ranking, education transparency, data-driven platform, React, Firebase, manual ranking, performance evaluation, School evaluation, Ranking transparency, Performance metrics, School comparison, Educational data analytics.

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

The education sector faces a significant challenge due to the lack of a standardized and transparent ranking system, making it difficult for parents, students, and schools to make informed decisions. Existing school ranking models often exhibit inconsistencies due to a lack of real-time updates, unclear evaluation methodologies, and the absence of an interactive review system. Moreover, without a centralized platform, schools face challenges in tracking their progress, while parents and students are unable to make well-informed decisions. This gap highlights the need for a comprehensive, data-driven solution that ensures credibility, accessibility, and continuous improvement in the school ranking process.

B. Problem Statement

School evaluation and ranking in the education sector encounter multiple challenges. The lack of real-time, easily accessible rankings complicates decision-making for parents and students. Furthermore, the absence of a data-driven evaluation framework results in inconsistent assessments, undermining the credibility of existing ranking systems. Without a unified platform for performance tracking, review submissions, and ranking updates, schools struggle to monitor their progress effectively. Furthermore, limited transparency in existing ranking frameworks creates uncertainty, preventing stakeholders from accessing reliable and verifiable school performance data. Addressing these

issues requires a structured, technology-driven solution that ensures accuracy, accessibility, and fairness.

C. Objectives

To address the lack of transparency and standardization in school rankings, this project introduces a web-based platform with real-time updates, ensuring the availability of accurate and up-to-date information. The platform will feature an interactive self-assessment tool that allows schools to input data, track their rankings, and identify areas for improvement. Parents and students will benefit from advanced search, filtering, and comparison options, enabling them to evaluate schools based on verified rankings, academic performance, infrastructure, faculty qualifications, and extracurricular achievements. The system will be built using React for the frontend and Firebase for the backend, leveraging its authentication, Firestore database, and API integration capabilities. To maintain credibility, manual ranking validation will be implemented alongside Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) for secure authentication, ensuring different levels of access for administrators, evaluators, schools, and users. By providing a structured, transparent, and user-friendly experience, this platform will empower all stakeholders with reliable school performance insights, enhancing informed decision-making in the education sector.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Existing School Ranking Systems

Existing school ranking systems, including government accreditation frameworks and private rating agencies, often face significant limitations. They typically lack real-time updates, making it difficult for parents, students, and schools to access the most current rankings. Additionally, these systems often rely on complex evaluation criteria that may not be easily understandable or accessible to stakeholders. Most importantly, they fail to provide transparency in decision-making, as the ranking methodologies and assessment processes are not always disclosed or standardized. These challenges highlight the need for a more dynamic, transparent, and user-friendly ranking system that ensures fairness, accuracy, and accessibility for all stakeholders in the education sector.

B. Limitations in Current Systems

The current school ranking systems face several critical challenges that limit their effectiveness and reliability. Limited data transparency prevents parents and students from accessing clear ranking methodologies, making it difficult to trust the rankings. Outdated ranking approaches, which rely solely on exam results, fail to capture a school's overall quality, including infrastructure, faculty expertise, and extracurricular opportunities. Additionally, the lack of interactive user engagement means that review and feedback mechanisms are often unavailable, restricting the ability of stakeholders to share their experiences. Moreover, bias in ranking methods can arise when private ranking bodies favor certain institutions, leading to unfair comparisons and misleading results. Addressing these issues requires a transparent, data-driven, and user-centric approach to school rankings.

C. Justification for School Grid

School Grid overcomes the limitations of traditional school ranking systems by implementing a structured, data-driven framework that evaluates institutions across multiple critical factors, including academic performance, infrastructure, faculty qualifications, extracurricular achievements, and student feedback. Unlike outdated ranking methods, it ensures real-time updates through a dynamic school database, providing stakeholders with the most current and accurate information. To uphold credibility and fairness, the platform integrates manual ranking evaluations, adding a critical layer of scrutiny to automated assessments. Additionally, transparency and accessibility are at the core of the system, empowering students, parents, and educators to make informed decisions based on reliable, comprehensive school data.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. Tools and Technologies Used

The School Grid platform is built using a modern technology stack to ensure efficiency, security, and a seamless user experience. The frontend leverages React 18+, along with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, to provide a responsive and interactive interface. The backend is powered by Firebase, managing authentication, Firestore database operations, and seamless API integration. Tailwind CSS is used for styling, providing a sleek and consistent UI. For state management, the platform leverages the Context API, enabling smooth data handling across components. Data visualization is implemented with Chart.js to represent performance metrics effectively. Additionally, testing and security are reinforced using Jest with React Testing Library for frontend validation, while Firebase Security Rules safeguard the backend, ensuring data integrity and protection.

B. System Architecture

The School Grid platform is built on a set of core components designed to ensure security, accuracy, and ease of use. Firebase Authentication, coupled with

Role-Based Access Control (RBAC), ensures secure logins and access permissions. The School Data Submission feature allows institutions to upload data related to academic performance, infrastructure, and extracurricular activities, ensuring that the platform remains current. A Manual Ranking System enables verified evaluators to review and update rankings, ensuring credibility. The Search & Compare Feature provides users with dynamic filters to easily find and compare schools based on various criteria. Lastly, the Admin Control Panel empowers administrators to approve school submissions, review data, and oversee ranking management, maintaining transparency and reliability across the platform.

IV. SYSTEM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

A. Ranking Criteria & Evaluation Process.

School Grid uses a weighted evaluation model to establish a fair and comprehensive school ranking system. Academic performance, contributing 40% of the total weight, highlights the significance of student achievements and overall educational outcomes. Infrastructure and facilities contribute 20%, reflecting the quality of learning environments and available resources. Faculty qualifications account for 15%, recognizing the expertise and experience of educators. Extracurricular activities make up 10%, highlighting the role of holistic development beyond academics. The student-teacher ratio, also weighted at 10%, assesses personalized learning opportunities and classroom effectiveness. Lastly, sustainability and community engagement carry a 5% weight, acknowledging schools' efforts in promoting environmental responsibility and social contributions. This structured approach ensures an objective and transparent ranking process.

B. Security Measures

The School Grid platform ensures robust security through a multi-layered approach. To ensure secure user authentication, Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) assigns permissions based on user roles, preventing unauthorized modifications and safeguarding data from potential breaches. Firebase Security Rules are enforced to restrict access to school data, ensuring that only authorized users can view or modify information. Additionally, advanced data encryption techniques are employed to protect sensitive school records, safeguarding them from potential cyber threats. This comprehensive security framework enhances data integrity, confidentiality, and overall system reliability.

C. Activity Diagram

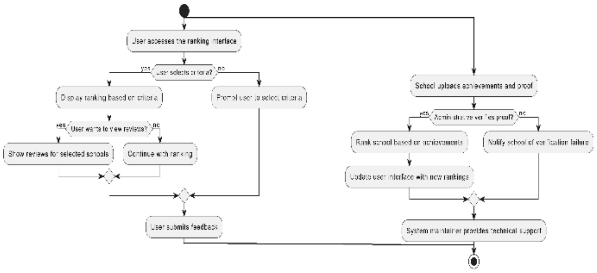

Figure represents the activity diagram of the School Grid platform, demonstrating the sequential actions performed by different user roles — school admins, system admins, and end users. The diagram highlights the key interactions involved in the platform's workflow, starting with school admins uploading school data and achievements, followed by the verification process handled by system admins. Once the data is reviewed and validated, the rankings are updated in real-time and displayed to users. End users, including parents and students, can access the ranking interface to search, apply filters, and view the updated rankings based on their selected criteria. Additionally, they can choose to view detailed reviews of selected schools or continue exploring the rankings. The diagram also showcases exception handling scenarios, such as notifying schools about verification failures and providing technical support where required, ensuring a smooth and reliable user experience.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. System Performance

School Grid is optimized for high-speed performance and efficiency. Real-time search and ranking updates are processed in under 200 milliseconds, providing users with instant access to the latest school rankings. Indexed Firestore database queries optimize data retrieval, enabling quick and efficient access to relevant information. Additionally, the streamlined admin approval process reduces school submission review times to just in 1 day, significantly enhancing operational efficiency and ensuring that school data remains up-to-date with minimal delays.

B. Challenges and Limitations

Although School Grid provides a robust ranking system, several challenges need to be addressed for further improvement. Manual ranking validation requires additional administrative effort, consuming time and resources to maintain credibility and accuracy. As the platform scales to accommodate larger datasets, optimization strategies must be implemented to maintain efficiency and prevent performance bottlenecks. Additionally, encouraging schools to consistently submit data remains a challenge, necessitating proactive engagement strategies,

incentives, and automated reminders to ensure comprehensive and up-to-date school information. Addressing these challenges will enhance the platform's scalability, reliability, and long-term success.

VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

A. Summary

School Grid effectively addresses the transparency issues inherent in traditional school ranking systems by implementing a structured and credible evaluation process. Through a combination of manual ranking validation and a data-driven framework, it ensures accuracy and fairness in school assessments. Additionally, its interactive user interface enhances accessibility, allowing parents, students, and schools to easily navigate rankings, compare institutions, and make well-informed decisions. By prioritizing transparency and user engagement, School Grid fosters trust and reliability in the school evaluation process.

B. Future Enhancements

The School Grid platform is continuously evolving to enhance efficiency and user experience. AI-assisted ranking validation is being introduced to minimize manual workload and ensure faster, more accurate school assessments. Geolocation-based filtering enables users to find nearby schools effortlessly, improving search relevance and convenience. Integration with government education data sources enhances credibility by incorporating verified institutional records and performance metrics. Additionally, a mobile application extends accessibility, allowing parents, students, and educators to access rankings and school insights on the go. These advancements further strengthen the platform’s transparency, efficiency, and usability.

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