Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An educational benchmarking system including a server configured to:

receive, from a plurality of computing devices of a plurality of different educational institutions, workforce data defining workforce characteristics and outcome data defining educational outcomes, the workforce data and the outcome data relating to [[a]]the plurality of different educational institutions;

determine, based upon the workforce data and the outcome data relating to the plurality of different educational institutions, one or more statistical relationships between workforce characteristics and educational outcomes relating to the plurality of different educational institutions based on determining a correlation between each pair of data from the workforce data and the outcome data;

determine, based upon the one or more statistical relationships, one or more ~~parameters for~~ variables of the workforce characteristics relating to the plurality of different educational institutions, the one or more ~~parameters~~ variables ~~corresponding to~~ correlated with at least one educational outcome; and

compare, one or more characteristics of an educational institution or group ~~thereof~~ of educational institutions of the plurality of different educational institutions to the one or more ~~parameters for~~ variables of the workforce characteristics of the plurality of different educational institutions, to enable areas for improvement to be identified for that educational institution or group of institutions.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The educational benchmarking system of claim 1, wherein the workforce data includes absenteeism data.

4. (Original) The educational benchmarking system of claim 1, wherein the workforce data includes recruitment and turnover data, demographic data, performance data, classification data, education data, professional development data, health and safety data, and/or cost data.

5. (Original) The educational benchmarking system of claim 1, wherein the outcome data includes student result data.

6. (Original) The educational benchmarking system of claim 1, wherein the outcome data includes absenteeism data relating to students, completion rates, scores and post school destinations.

7. (Previously Presented) The educational benchmarking system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the workforce data and the outcome data is automatically verified by the system.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The educational benchmarking system of claim 1, wherein the workforce data and/or the outcome data, or a subset thereof, is automatically retrieved from third-party software or a third-party data source.

10. (Currently Amended) The educational benchmarking system of claim 1, wherein the one or more ~~parameters for~~ variables of the workforce characteristics comprise one or more benchmarks.

11. (Currently Amended) The educational benchmarking system of claim 1, wherein the step of comparing the characteristics of the educational institution or group of educational institutions to the one or more ~~parameters for~~ variables of the workforce characteristics includes generating a report with the one or more ~~parameters for~~ variables of the workforce characteristics provided thereon, and the characteristics of the school or group of schools provided in relation thereto.

12. (Currently Amended) The educational benchmarking system of claim 11, wherein the characteristics of the educational institution or group of educational institutions are graphically displayed in association with the ~~parameters for~~ variables of the workforce characteristics.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) The educational benchmarking system of claim 11, wherein the report is configured to show ~~parameters~~ variables that have a greatest impact on educational outcomes in the school or group of schools.

15. (Previously Presented) The educational benchmarking system of claim 11, wherein the report is generated according to factors in which a user generating the report has indicated interested.

16. (Original) The educational benchmarking system of claim 11, wherein the report is generated according to a predefined template.

17. (Original) The educational benchmarking system of claim 11, wherein the report is interactive.

18. (Original) The educational benchmarking system of claim 11, wherein the report comprises a dashboard, which is updated based upon the user's interactions.

19. (Previously Presented) The educational benchmarking system of claim 1, wherein the system is configured to enable a user to select the plurality of different educational institutions

from a larger group of educational institutions, wherein the selection of the plurality of different educational institutions is performed according to one or more school characteristics.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The educational benchmarking system of claim 1, wherein the system is configured to enable the user to select the one or more ~~parameters for~~ variables of the workforce characteristics from a larger group of ~~parameters~~ variables.

22. (Currently Amended) The educational benchmarking system of claim 1, wherein the system is configured to compare the characteristics of a school or group of schools to the one or more ~~parameters for~~ variables of the workforce characteristics further based upon one or more control variables.

23. (Original) The educational benchmarking system of claim 1, wherein the system is further configured to generate a report relating to a plurality of schools.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for educational benchmarking, the method including:

Receiving, at a server and from a plurality of computing devices of a plurality of different educational institutions, workforce data defining workforce characteristics and outcome data defining educational outcomes, the workforce data and the outcome data relating to a plurality of different educational institutions;

determining, at the server and based upon the workforce data and the outcome data relating to the plurality of different educational institutions, one or more statistical relationships between workforce characteristics and educational outcomes relating to the plurality of different educational institutions based on determining a correlation between each pair of data from the workforce data and the outcome data;

determining, based upon the one or more statistical relationships, one or more ~~parameters for~~ variables of the workforce characteristics, the one or more ~~parameters~~ variables corresponding to at least one educational outcome;

comparing, one or more characteristics of an educational institution or group of educational institutions to the one or more ~~parameters for~~ variables of the workforce characteristics, to enable areas for improvement to be identified for that educational institution or group of educational institutions.