**Conciseness: Can you edit the content for brevity?**

March 2020

[**What are the Benefits of Having an ERM Program?**](https://www.edurisksolutions.org/Templates/template-blogs.aspx?id=4111&blogid=100&pageid=47)

Many corporations and large nonprofit organizations use the holistic form of risk management known as enterprise risk management (ERM) to prevent and prepare for incidents that cause reputational, financial, strategic, or other damage. This approach continues to make its way to the education sector. Boards and accreditors are increasingly mandating a like approach to ensure their educational institutions provide safe environments while attracting and retaining the right students and faculty.

ERM engages senior leaders across departments to break down silos and proactively address institutional risk. Examples of institutional risks in education include a serial sexual predator on campus, a major cyber breach, a lack of appropriate management of student mental health, and mismanagement of athletic injuries.

Schools and institutions that establish an ERM program are better positioned to endure because they:

1. **Minimize critical vulnerabilities**. Education continues to face big pressures, including changing demographics, increased public distrust, reduced government funding, and a broader understanding of the pervasiveness of sexual abuse, discrimination, and harassment. A United Educators survey shows that institutions with ERM programs report the ability to better recognize and manage reputational risk — including keeping major reputational events internal to the institution — compared to their peers. They also report having greater peace of mind.
2. **Make better strategic decisions**. ERM defines risk as uncertainty, not just something bad to protect against. It allows your institution to proactively evaluate trade-offs between the upside and downside of strategic decisions as they align with imperatives (like mission) so that you can prepare for threats as much as you can gain confidence with innovation. For instance, regarding upside, ERM can identify opportunities, provide discipline, and ensure institutional alignment around efforts like adding new programs, merging or partnering with other institutions, or pursuing new research efforts. You can move forward faster and smarter and be prepared for headwinds.
3. **Improve overall institutional performance**. Corporations with established ERM programs report increased shareholder value and better access to credit relative to their peers. In education, ERM also can help institutions eliminate redundancies in budgets, raise the visibility of key issues early, and streamline initiatives.