

SCHOOL DISTRICT CENTRALIZES STUDENT SERVICES ACCOUNTING

“ Our goal was twofold...to reduce secretary time and to be able to offer an online credit card payment option. Blue Bear Software was the best fit for our needs. It's a complete accounting package with an integrated online payment solution. ”

Paul Hanson, Director of School Services, Granite School District

Background

Granite School District in Salt Lake City, Utah consists of 88 schools. It manages around \$10 million in payments for a variety of items, including course fees, sports participation fees, yearbooks, dance tickets and outstanding fines owed to the school.

The District wanted to streamline processes among all its schools and meet the community's desire to pay online for school items.

Challenge

A search committee conducted an internal needs assessment, evaluating existing practices, software and hardware. They realized that all of their schools were using different procedures, software and hardware applications, and that none of their applications were networked to allow for District oversight:

- + Receipts were issued manually or through their Combinations program (which was designed to track lockers)
- + Manual entry of daily sales into Quicken
 - Up to 5 hours a day, depending on time of year
 - Increased stress and risk of manual error
 - Lack of accountability - data could easily be tampered with
- + Unable to accept credit card payments

What the District needed was a new software solution that would eliminate manual workload on the financial secretaries, and allow tracking of student payments, accurate report generation, better accountability and an integrated online credit card payment option.

WHAT'S YOUR ACTIVE?

Solution

The group settled on Blue Bear software from ACTIVE Network as their preferred software solution in June of 2008. According to Sherry Wilson, Accounting Coordinator for the Granite School District, “the accounting solution of Tracks, SchoolBooks and the WebStore was the obvious choice for our District. The software is a completely integrated solution that manages the flow of school funds with hardly any manual data entry and much more accountability.”

A Blue Bear Implementation Specialist installed the client on the District’s servers and at each school site. The District opted for onsite training of a select few users, then Sherry provided training for the remaining 20 schools.

Results

All of Granite SD’s 25 schools have been using Tracks, SchoolBooks, and WebStore since 2008 with favorable results:

- + Manual input decreased by 2-3 hours per day.
- + Online WebStore allows parents and students to pay for school items and fees by credit card, reducing long lines and cash handling.
- + Course fee collection increased from 70% to 92% after the software change. One student paid off a 2-year fine because credit card payments were available.



Find out how ACTIVE Network’s integrated online payment solution can benefit you!

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