



Franklin County Schools Improves Visibility with SchoolFunds Online Upgrade

The Challenge

When school activity fund information is siloed in multiple systems across a school district, accessing consolidated views and up-to-the-minute reports is next to impossible. This was the problem facing Franklin County Schools (FCS) in North Carolina.

FCS used SchoolFunds (SF) — a legacy, on-premises version of SchoolFunds Online (SFO) — to track and manage activity funds collected and disbursed at each of its 16 schools. Although the district was pleased with the overall functionality of SF, issues with transparency persisted due to the on-premises configuration of the software.

Under this configuration, each school had a standalone instance of SF installed on a single computer. Since each instance was hosted locally, the applications were unable to share data seamlessly with each other or the district which created information silos. To make matters worse, remote access to SF was not possible. As a result, the district had limited visibility into each school's activity fund transactions.

For Jamie Jones, the district's Lead Payroll & Budget Analyst, this lack of visibility presented significant obstacles. If Ms. Jones wanted to access accurate, up-to-date data for a given school, she had no choice but to wait until the end of the month when

each school emailed their monthly reports. For the rest of the month, the district was essentially left in the dark, waiting for reports to arrive via email.

"I could only see the data from the previous month. And by the time the middle of the new month rolled around, the information was out of date," said Ms. Jones. "I couldn't see what was going on in real-time."

Consequently, the district often had to delay making decisions to avoid the risk of basing them on out-of-date information. In cases where real-time information was required, Ms. Jones was forced to manually track down the information. This process often involved volleying emails back and

ABOUT FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Franklin County Schools (FCS) is a school district serving Franklin County, North Carolina. Comprised of 16 schools, FCS serves over 8,500 students ranging from early childhood/pre-kindergarten education through grade 12 in elementary, intermediate, and high schools.

forth or engaging in time-consuming games of telephone tag.

In some cases, Ms. Jones even had to physically travel to schools. This was not a productive use of her time as an analyst who supports schools in making informed, strategic decisions about activity fund management.

Results

The District was pleased to discover that a cloud-based version of the software existed and that it had all the same functionality as the legacy version but with the added advantages inherent to cloud computing. Under a cloud computing configuration, SFO is hosted virtually over the Internet, which gives users access to the application at any time from any location. This ensures that current data from across a district are only a few clicks away at any given time.

In July 2018, KEV's implementation team transitioned FCS's on-premises version of SF to the cloud. To support the upgrade, two trainers from KEV visited the district to deliver user training. Since FCS staff was already familiar with the software, training was completed in a single, half-day session.

"The training and support that KEV provided as part of our implementation was professional and extremely thorough," said Ms. Jones. "It made our transition to SFO easy and seamless."

Beyond the implementation itself, the upgrade to the cloud-based version of SFO made an immediate impact in improving visibility of school activity funds across the district. Because SFO provides anywhere, anytime access, Ms. Jones can now view accurate, up-to-date financial data at any time — not just at the end of the month.

"If our CFO requests information related to a specific school's activity funds, I can instantly run a report anytime it's required,"

explained Ms. Jones. "The need for me to call or visit a treasurer at one of our schools has been reduced considerably. From a district perspective, moving to the web-based application has given us greater control and accuracy, as well as improved transparency. We are now empowered with real-time data that allows all stakeholders to make decisions in a more agile and strategic manner."

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Schools in the District

16



Number of Students

8,500



Funds Managed Annually

\$1.7M

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— **Jamie Jones**

Lead Payroll & Budget Analyst, Franklin County Schools



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KEV Group provides the most comprehensive activity fund management solution that enables K-12 schools to manage every dollar efficiently, accurately, and consistently. By seamlessly integrating and automating all activity fund management processes, the SchoolCash platform provides real-time visibility and control over how districts and schools create, collect, manage, track, and reconcile activity funds. Parents benefit from an easy-to-use solution that offers convenience and supports all payment types. More than 17,000 schools across North America rely on SchoolCash to manage over \$3 billion in activity funds annually. Visit kevgroup.com to learn more.