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Steve Goeglein, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, MSD of Lawrence Township

Company

Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township

Industry

Education

Company size

2,500 employees

Customer Profile

Located in the northeast corner of the Greater Indianapolis area, Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township is the ninth-largest school district in Indiana.

Website

ltschools.org

Business Situation

MSD of Lawrence Township wanted to do a better job of understanding the issues that impact students' lives, moving beyond a disciplinary focus to a better way to meet learners' individual needs, from the earliest grades through high school graduation.

Solution

MSD of Lawrence Township uses Smartsheet to track academic and behavioral information in a central location and make it available to the teachers and counselors who need to understand how best to meet individual students' needs.

Benefits

- A comprehensive view of the whole student that captures teacher, counselor, and administrator observation in a single location
- A streamlined summer school registration process that gives teachers their summer assignments weeks or months sooner, in mid-spring
- Automated processes for event approvals that cut field-trip requests from days to minutes

School District Uses Smartsheet to Save Time, Get Better Insight into Students

To help their students succeed, The Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township in the northeast Indianapolis area needed a better way to collect and securely share information on more than 16,000 students across their district. They selected Smartsheet to help them track academic and behavioral information in a central repository, speed student registration timelines, and automate administrative tasks. As a result, the team was able to create a comprehensive view of the whole student so teachers and counselors can understand how best to meet individual students' needs. They also streamlined school registration processes and reduced administrative overhead with automation.

Situation:

These days, the old-fashioned “permanent record” has given way to a more holistic view of everything that’s happening in the student’s life, including health issues, family crises and more. In large education systems like Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township in the northeast Indianapolis area, collecting and securely sharing that information on more than 16,000 students can be a complex and time-consuming prospect.

To capture a unified view of the whole student, MSD of Lawrence Township created a system called ABAI (academics, behavior, attendance, and infractions). ABAI is designed as a system of care that charts six key issues for students: Ability to read and write, ability to do math, likelihood to graduate, school attendance, behavior at school, and any social/emotional issues that are interfering with the student’s success.

The system was originally created in Google Docs, but the volume of data to track made the original format too cumbersome to use effectively.

Solution:

A government teacher who had used Smartsheet for his students’ constitutional law prep thought that it might be an optimal new platform. Smartsheet made it easy to capture and categorize information and share

it with the teachers and counselors who needed a deeper understanding of their students' individual needs.

"It's like the old permanent record or the brown folder about you that sat in the principal's office," says Steve Goeglein, assistant superintendent of secondary education for MSD of Lawrence Township. "Every night, the counselors and administrators get the report on any changes that affect their students. It's just keeping them informed. Our high school principals love it because there are a lot of layers of people between them and the kids, but they still have to be connected. It's a different job now; they have to know their kids as much as an elementary principal does. And this is a way for them to know what's going on."

Benefits:

By adopting Smartsheet, MSD administrators are seeing the benefits of improved visibility, simplified processes, and faster approvals. Plus, it's easy enough to use that IT didn't need to help set it up.

Increased Visibility and

Transparency: Educators and staff have gained a comprehensive view of the whole student that captures teacher, counselor, and administrator observation in a single location.

"It's allowing us to talk about more students, and the quality of information is better because we're able to bring it all into one spot," Goeglein says. "It's allowing us to do more with the time we're saving because we're not doing busywork and paper-shuffling anymore."

Smartsheet is also providing better visibility into student information with Smartsheet Dynamic View management and reporting, which provides teachers and administrators with easy navigation to the specific information they need.

Streamlined Process for Simplified Enrollment and Resourcing: With Smartsheet, students can choose summer classes online, and their requests are automatically routed for approval and alignment with individualized education plans.

"We would do enrollment for weeks and now we can do it in a day, and that's everything to me," Goeglein says. "Knowing how many teachers I need to hire ... not waiting until the last minute."

Smartsheet also simplifies school-year enrollment for students who are changing schools. Students can submit their request and upload academic records through Smartsheet, speeding the review and approval process.

Automation Saves Time and Speeds

Processes: With Smartsheet, teachers can now fill out an online form that's automatically routed for approval—which can happen in minutes.

Automated alerts on a districtwide calendar help administrators plan security for upcoming events or arrange for snowplows to clear the parking lot before a Saturday basketball game. Weekly reports keep the superintendent updated on the weeks ahead and allow marketing staff to promote events.

Principals get automated alerts on their school's enrollment once students have submitted their request and uploaded academic records into Smartsheet.

Easy to Set Up — Without IT: A big factor in the MSD's enthusiastic embrace of Smartsheet is its simplicity and ease of use. The platform is so simple and straightforward to use that the IT team didn't take it seriously at first, says Kim Morris, administrative assistant to Goeglein.

Within a few months, IT staff could see how much time and effort administrators were saving, and began asking Morris how they could use it for their own projects.

About Smartsheet

Smartsheet (NYSE:SMAR) is a leading cloud-based platform for work execution, enabling teams and organizations to plan, capture, manage, automate, and report on work at scale, resulting in more efficient processes and better business outcomes. Today over 95,000 customers, including more than 77,000 domain-based customers and over 70% of the companies in the Fortune 500, rely on Smartsheet to implement, manage, and automate processes across a broad array of departments and use cases.

To learn more about Smartsheet, visit www.smartsheet.com