Case Study

Kings Local School District and Dublin City Schools: Solving Student Behavior Problems *Before* They Start

The Challenge

School districts traditionally develop behavior rules to help students, staff and parents understand student behavior expectations and consequences for inappropriate behaviors. One of the biggest frustrations is that the principals and teachers do not have systems that are effective in helping them manage the discipline process.

When students misbehave, it is important to have a system in place to allow educators to report incidents and administrators to track them and then communicate with appropriate stakeholders. It is also important for this system to be easy to use and automated to ensure reports are submitted and followed up on in a timely manner and stakeholders are notified of actions taken.

Every school district deals with student disciplinary issues, however, it is how they are tracked and reported that sets districts apart. Additionally, districts that acknowledge positive student behaviors while addressing behaviors that are not appropriate can ward off future disciplinary issues and improve education in the classroom.

Kings Local School District and Dublin City School District, both in Ohio, needed to streamline student behavior management processes, but each for their own unique reasons.

Kings Junior High School applied for the Ohio Department of Education's Ohio Schools to Watch (OSTW) program, that recognizes exemplary middle schools based on a number of criteria. To qualify for the distinction, the program required that students know and meet the behavioral, academic and social expectations of staff, parents, district and community.

For Columbus-suburb Dublin City Schools, the 10th largest district in the state with 19 schools and 15,000 enrolled students, efficiently reporting and addressing student behaviors, in addition to all of the other tasks associated with student discipline, was difficult to accomplish because of less-than-effective tools and the district's size.

The Solution

Both Kings Local School District and Dublin City Schools wanted to streamline and improve their student behavior management processes.

Kings Local School District implemented the PublicSchoolWORKS Student Behavior Management System in 2007 and Dublin City Schools implemented the system in 2008.

"PublicSchoolWORKS reduced the amount of paperwork and files in centralized student discipline data," said Joe Santa-Emma, an assistant principal in Dublin City Schools.

District Overview

Kings Local School District
Kings Mill, OH

Buildings:	6
Students:	4,000

Dublin City School District
Dublin, OH

Buildings:	19
Students:	15,000
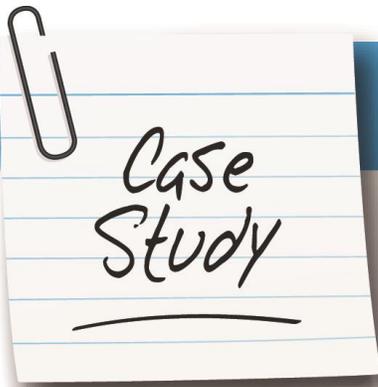
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STUDENTWATCH *a product of PublicSchoolWORKS*

"We now have the ability to organize data based on any criteria and the system addresses the crisis many schools are experiencing…having to do more with less. And we don't worry about the state reporting requirements, as it is done for us."

The Benefits

The PublicSchoolWORKS Student Behavior Management System automates and streamlines the administrative process of student behavior concerns, thus improving and speeding up the communication between teachers and administrators. In addition, the system allows educators to acknowledge and keep track of positive student behaviors.

The Student Behavior Management System allows administrators to more effectively track and address the following:
- Referrals / Major Infractions
- Documentation Reports / Minor Infractions
- Positive Behaviors
- Behavior Trend Reporting
- Communication to Appropriate Staff
- Consequence Management
- Automated State-Record Reporting System

The Results

Despite their different goals and reasons for implementing, PublicSchoolWORKS was the solution for both Kings Local and Dublin City Schools because it gave each what they needed to improve their programs and processes.

In the span of three years, Kings Junior High School received two prestigious awards. They were one of only three schools in the state to be named an Ohio School to Watch, a prestigious designation. PublicSchoolWORKS was deemed to have been a key piece in achieving this recognition since the Student Behavior Management System helped address key metrics. Additionally, the assistant principal Dave Winebrenner was named one of 17 National Outstanding Assistant Principals by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

"The true beauty of the Student Behavior Management System is the centralized location," said Winebrenner. "Because all staff members have access, it empowers our staff to report what happened during a particular incident in their own words."

Dublin City Schools was able to easily streamline processes in order to effectively address all discipline issues — whether major, minor or positive — while increasing effectiveness and recordkeeping. Because of this, Dublin City Schools remains to be one of Ohio's premier school districts, bolstering its statewide reputation for academic and extracurricular excellence.

"The Student Behavior Management System has improved education in the classroom," said Santa-Emma. "It creates a better environment for students by eliminating bullying, promoting better attendance and rewarding positive behavior."

"It solves problems before they start."

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