

## EmployeeSafe Case Study

*Despite different needs, both districts greatly improved the way they met requirements after switching to PublicSchoolWORKS.*

### Improving Student Safety, While Saving Time & Money Forest Hills School District and Mesa Public Schools

#### The Challenge

#### Districts Overview

##### Forest Hills School District

Schools: 5  
Employees: 370  
Students: 2,519

##### Mesa Public Schools

Schools: 82  
Employees: 10,276  
Students: 63,780

In 2010, Forest Hills School District (FHSD) in Cincinnati, OH, contemplated a major change in its safety program that would have them leave the protection of a workers' compensation pool and become self-insured. School districts can reap substantial savings by becoming self-insured; however, the risks are greater if they do not effectively manage their safety program. Becoming self-insured is a serious decision requiring intensive planning and extensive evaluation of current safety processes to understand the strengths and gaps that need to be addressed.

After evaluation, FHSD discovered two aspects of its safety program that needed improvement: staff training and staff accident management. The existing online safety training program used by FHSD, although provided at no cost, was too time consuming to manage and did not fully address the district's need for a comprehensive safety program. Additionally, the manual paper process for managing accidents was outdated and ineffective in addressing staff incidents and claims.

Schools are required to provide ready access to (Material) Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for chemicals brought into schools for proper use, understanding safety issues and proper actions to take in case of a chemical emergency. Managing and maintaining updated and new safety data sheets, and ensuring that staff is properly trained to effectively use them, is a time consuming and difficult responsibility.

Mesa Public Schools (Mesa) in Mesa, AZ, felt the burden of meeting this requirement and sought a solution to more effectively manage this safety compliance requirement. Mesa began the process by implementing another online SDS provider, but found it difficult to get the system up and running, and staff trained within the district's required timeline.

#### The Solution

Despite the different needs of the two districts, both FHSD and Mesa found their safety management solution with PublicSchoolWORKS.

- FHSD selected the WORKS EmployeeSafe Suite to manage both staff training and staff accident reporting.
- Mesa switched to WORKS to begin using the MSDS Now! - Silver online binder and training systems.



## The Benefits

Switching from other vendors' less effective programs to the PublicSchoolWORKS user-friendly, automated, streamlined processes, both districts directly improved the way they met requirements.

- **Staff Training - FHSD** had used an online tool, but the old program did not meet all the compliance requirements, plus was cumbersome to manage and maintain. Since the EmployeeSafe Suite Training System automatically emails staff to complete required training, and auto-emails reports to administrators with listing staff who have not yet completed their training. The HR department gets involved only when the system auto-emails them a final district-wide report showing which staff members did not complete the required training.
- **Staff Accident Management -** Managing accidents can be time consuming and inefficient requiring staff to tie up time to complete forms that may be misplaced or have incomplete information. Often administrators spend more time working the reporting process instead of managing prevention and safety improvements. With EmployeeSafe Suite, FHSD staff now submit an online accident report as soon as it happens. The system then auto-notifies key staff and administrators to investigate or address this hazard, and auto-emails the FROI to its MCO and TPA, speeding their involvement to address claims. The accident management system even integrates with the Training System to auto-enroll and notify the injured employee to be retrained...all with zero effort from the administration, who now can focus on other critical needs.
- **Online (M)SDS Sheets - MSDS Now! - Silver** allows MPS staff to find SDSs online, print labels and speak with chemical safety specialists when needed, eliminating the need for maintaining and housing traditional SDS binders, while lightening the load for administrators. Included is online training to improve safety and instructional posters, labels and other tools to educate staff how to access SDSs using the MSDS Now! - Silver system.

## The Results

**FHSD had a successful first year being self-insured . . . and even saved \$211,000!**

Both districts greatly improved processes and gained peace of mind by switching to PublicSchoolWORKS. With EmployeeSafe Suite, FHSD improved reporting accidents while decreasing administration time needed to managing staff training and staff accident reporting. FHSD had a successful first year being self-insured . . . and even saved \$211,000!

MPS successfully launched an SDS initiative to ensure it complied with ever-changing district, state and federal mandates, while improving safety for, students and staff.

***For more information: 1.877.77WORKS or sales@publicschoolworks.com***

T 513 631 6111

F 513 631 6888

[www.publicschoolworks.com](http://www.publicschoolworks.com)

