StudentWatch Case Study

A restructuring of leadership and the implementation of the Student Behavior Management System has helped Oak Hills High School take preventative action.

Making Informed Decisions about Student Behavior
Oak Hills Local School District

The Challenge

District Overview

Schools:	9
Employees:	1,000
Students:	8,000

Oak Hills Local School District, located in the Cincinnati suburb of Oak Hills, has been an EmployeeSafe user for many years. Although EmployeeSafe had effectively automated and streamlined staff-related responsibilities such as staff training and accident management, the district was still manually managing student behavior reports.

"Our high school used to have a Dean of Student Services that was responsible for student behavior management," said John Stoddard, principal of Oak Hills High School. "However, the role was eliminated and the responsibility for student behavior management was assigned to each of our assistant principals."

Each of the five assistant principals oversees their respective "house," which consists of a school counselor, a secretary, and approximately 500 students. This house structure allows the assistant principals to split the student caseload so they can get to know their students with the hopes of deterring them from negative behavior. However, adding student behavior management to the assistant principals' already long list of daily responsibilities was a difficult transition, which relied heavily on paper processes completed by the assistant principals' secretaries.

"It has helped find where to look for behavior issues and it's helped us make some proactive decisions."

John Stoddard,
Principal,
Oak Hills High School

The Solution

One of the assistant principals had used the StudentWatch Suite at a previous district and suggested Stoddard research the Student Behavior Management System because it could be a valuable tool for the assistant principals. After seeing how the system could standardize student behavior management, Stoddard worked with the district's Director of Operations to implement the Student Behavior Management System at the high school and invited the district's five elementary schools and three middle schools to use the system, as well.

The Benefits

Oak Hills High School, along with one of the district's middle and elementary schools, has implemented the Student Behavior Management System. The Student Behavior Management System has made managing student behavior seamless for the assistant principals and has greatly alleviated their secretaries' workloads because it has eliminated the manual paper processes. When a teacher submits a referral (major infraction), documentation report (minor

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infraction) or positive report, the Student Behavior Management System may auto-email the appropriate assistant principal to address the behavior concern immediately. Once the assistant principal has met with the student and assigned the appropriate consequence, the principal can communicate the steps taken to the teacher who filed the referral detailing the appropriate information.

"Our staff seems happy because they know the student behavior issues they are reporting are not being neglected," said Stoddard.

The ability for the school to document each behavior incident helps create a comprehensive record for each student, which subsequently helps the assistant principals determine the most appropriate consequence. Each consequence is recorded in the system, thus ensuring the administrators are not missing any steps and that nothing falls through the cracks.

Stoddard worked with the district's transportation provider to train the bus drivers to use the Student Behavior Management System, as well. Instead of filling out a three-page carbon copy form that could get lost, bus drivers submit discipline reports the same way teachers do.

The Results

After just four days of using the system, teachers already began submitting referrals and documentation reports to the assistant principals. The number of reports submitted has increased on a monthly basis, and although this may sound like a negative, it proves that teachers have embraced the technology.

"Our assistant principals and I are in the Student Behavior Management System daily," said Stoddard. "It helps identify behavior issues and make some proactive decisions."

After using the system for a few months, Stoddard and the assistant principals noticed the most common referral offense was for skipping class. After reviewing all of the referrals, they found specific times and locations students were found skipping class and rerouted the hall monitors to those locations.

"Before we used the system, making decisions about student behavior management was like guesswork," said Stoddard. "Sometimes we would have a perception of what our biggest behavior issues were, but we didn't have a way to back it up. Now we have this data staring at us, showing us what our biggest issues are so we're able to better budget our time."

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