

EmployeeSafe Case Study

EmployeeSafe helped streamline the BOCES' Safety Risk program, which gave the Safety Risk Officer more time to support component districts.

Sustaining Safety Continuity for Component Schools and Internally Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES

District Overview

BOCES Staff: 262
Districts: 19
District Staff: 2,964

The Challenge

Otsego Northern Catskills Board of Cooperative Educational Services (ONC BOCES) serves 19 component districts across a 1,661-square-mile region in central New York. Despite this vast coverage area, there is just one Safety Risk Officer to support 12 districts participating in their Safety Risk program. The vast geographic footprint of the service area alone made providing consistent and sustainable safety risk offerings a challenge. An additional challenge for ONC BOCES was the pending retirement of its 20-year tenured Safety Risk Officer.

ONC BOCES component districts relied on the Safety Risk Officer to help them understand and comply with many federal and state regulations — from staff training, to annual updating of written safety plans, to renewing first aid certifications for nurses and staff. Further, the Safety Risk Officer provided expert guidance on all of the typical facility-related requirements like asbestos management plans, handling underground fuel storage, conducting inspections, and more. While difficult to get everything accomplished for the component districts, most tasks are cyclical on a quarterly, annual or biannual basis. The retiring officer had the knowledgebase for updating or revising items with the participating districts down to an art. This knowledge needed to be captured quickly so that her successor could seamlessly continue supporting the districts participating in the BOCES' Safety Risk program.

“PublicSchoolWORKS is easy to use and manage. The Client Services team is very responsive and extra helpful. Sometimes we wonder if they are only working for us.”

*Dr. Jennifer Bolton Carls,
 Deputy Superintendent,
 OBC BOCES*

The Solution

ONC BOCES implemented PublicSchoolWORKS' EmployeeSafe Suite to help support the districts enrolled in the Safety Risk program, as well as to help manage compliance task and training requirements throughout ONC BOCES' own buildings.

The Compliance Task Management System includes a library of all federal and state-mandated inspections, drills and other compliance tasks, customizable forms, written programs, checklists and other documents. The Staff Training System includes online staff state and federally-mandated courses and district-specific courses. Both the compliance tasks and training are delivered via automated management systems that notify, track and report completion to ensure all requirements are met — all with very limited time and effort required of administrators. Lastly, the Accident Management System immediately alerts the Safety



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Resource Officer of all staff accidents and notifies parties of actions to take.

The Benefits

The EmployeeSafe management system auto-emails the Safety Resource Officer every time a required compliance task or training deadline is approaching or missed or when an accident report is submitted, thus ensuring that nothing falls through the cracks. Additionally, the online reporting and storage of all records makes compliance reporting much faster and more convenient since all records are centrally located and documented properly.

The Results

This streamlined approach gives the Safety Risk Officer more time to support the districts and create more targeted and effective corrective actions based on any trends seen – making him a more strategic asset for the component districts. ONC BOCES’ successful implementation of EmployeeSafe is seen as a best-practices precedent for other BOCES looking for additional support in their Safety Risk programs.

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