

# case study:

## Special Education and Student Behavior Management



Public Focus. Proven Results.™

### THE CLIENT

School District of Broward County, Florida

- District type: large urban
- Total ESE Students: Over 31,000

### THE PROJECT

EasyIEP™, EasyTrac™, EasyFax™, Gifted Educational Plans, Due Process and BehaviorPlus™ Mobile Implementations

### THE OPPORTUNITY

Broward initially implemented Public Consulting Group's (PCG's) EasyTrac™ Web-based solution for the documentation of health-related services provided to special education students in October 2000.

EasyTrac™ allowed Broward clinicians to document services electronically from any computer connected to the Internet. For Medicaid-eligible students, these services were then automatically submitted for direct federal reimbursement. For a district with 327 schools and over 31,000 exceptional student education children, the additional revenue that EasyTrac™ helped to recover proved to be significant: **to date, PCG has helped Broward County recoup more than \$12.4 million.**

In 2002, Broward administrators began to consider introducing a comprehensive student management system to their special education framework. Their search focused on Web-based systems with the functionality to store student data historically, from year to year. They also sought a system that could accommodate Broward's unique size and customization demands. Administrators

wanted a new system that would provide the entire district with a centralized set of forms and documents. Broward also considered the potential for long-term expansion and access adaptability. Over time, administrators wanted their system to expand to provide parents and general education teachers with limited configurable log-in access.

**Broward again selected PCG, implementing EasyIEP™ in the spring of 2003.**

### THE PCG APPROACH

In addition to providing Broward County with a strong record of client-centered support, PCG's special education team also adapted its service offerings to affordably develop a Broward-specific process for creating IEPs. PCG merged Broward's existing EasyTrac™ system with EasyIEP™, giving users access to their students through a single secured Web site. It also gave administrators the ability to monitor the delivery of services as compared to what was prescribed in the IEP.

In the fall of 2006, Broward County added PCG's EasyFax™ tool as well as a module for Gifted students to its IEP system. EasyFax™ gives the district the ability to capture paper documents and convert them to paperless format. The software allows educators to quickly and easily add signature pages, meeting comments, and other paper-based information to a student's digital portfolio. The Gifted module allows the district to create and maintain all required documentation for its entire Exceptional Student population. The system allows the district to track the unique timelines required for Gifted students.

In the spring of 2010, Broward County decided to begin discussions and work with PCG to develop a new Due Process module in EasyIEP™. The module allows the district to keep track of all documents required throughout a Due Process case, as well as ensure that no step is missed during the process. The system allows Broward County to track many different types of cases including Due Process, Local Conflict Resolution, Independent Education Evaluation, State

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Mediation, and State Complaint. This module was piloted during the 2010-2011 school year, and is now being fully utilized.

In the summer of 2011, Broward County added PCG's BehaviorPlus™ Mobile module to allow behavior teachers and specialists to document instances of negative behavior. The district purchased over 130 iPads for these users to be able to document these behavior logs in 'real time' in the classroom. The module then allows the users to graph and view overall behavior trends for individual students, which can then be used to design and implement positive strategies to correct the negative behaviors. The new tool was piloted in the fall of 2011 and is now being fully utilized by over 90 behavior teachers, techs and specialists.

### THE RESULT

The School Board of Broward County and PCG are now in their 14th year of partnership and together have achieved considerable success. Broward currently has over 33,300 active users who have, to date, created more than 5 million documents. As of fall 2014, over 300 Due Process cases and more than 21,547 behavior logs have been entered into the system.

