

case study:

Special Education Management, Rtl Academic and Behavioral Support



PCG | Education

Public Focus. Proven Results.™

THE CLIENT

Memphis City Schools

- 108,304 total students
- 16,274 special education students
- 1,144 Section 504 students

THE PROJECTS

1. Web-based special education management system implementation
2. Web-based Response to Intervention (Rtl) and supporting student planning system implementation

THE CHALLENGES

PCG Education was called in at the 11th hour to quickly implement an electronic special education management system to help MCS monitor compliance and to create Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) after a previous vendor had failed to successfully deploy a system within the district's desired timeframe (over a year). Memphis sought to increase compliance with federal and state regulations, control costs, and streamline its special education management process.

MCS was also struggling to make progress on Rtl efforts, using an inefficient paper-based process. During meetings to discuss the district's goals and concerns, it became clear to all parties that the issues were much broader and more complex than simply replacing the paper-based process, and would need thorough analysis and planning in order to ease the burden on teachers and meet the needs of students.

THE PCG APPROACH

PCG initially implemented its Web-based EasyIEP™ special education management system for MCS, training more than 800 system users in roughly six weeks. PCG customized the system to meet specific Memphis needs, with MCS-specific documents, work-flow tables, manual and how-to guides, and additional data fields.

At a later date, PCG helped the district to convert its paper-based Student/Teacher Academic Report (STAR) process from yellow folders to an electronic Web-based Rtl management system. In order to deliver the best possible solution for all stakeholders, PCG engaged its in-house educational subject matter experts to review and refine the Rtl process and configure its Web-based EdPlan™ platform to best meet district needs. EdPlan™ provides case management tools that guide users through a range of processes and gives a consolidated student profile for one-stop review of each student's historical and current performance.

With the use of EdPlan™, the project scope expanded from simply replacing a paper process to building a data system that could manage all types of student learning plans and processes in the district. These plans and processes include

- Graduation plans
- 504 plans
- Rtl Academic plans
- Rtl Behavior plans
- S-Team process

THE RESULTS

Staff members began using EasyIEP™ in January, 2007. Soon afterward, the district was able to create more than 32,000 total documents and more than 6,000 IEPs. Memphis could now report OSEP and ED Facts data automatically to the state and federal education data agencies. Data that used to take hours to track down is now available at the click of a button. Educators reported they could now create an IEP in about 15 minutes, rather than the prior all-day process. As such, educators had significantly more time to spend with students.

MCS has also experienced significant results from use of the EdPlan™ platform:

Graduation plans - MCS began using EdPlan™ in April 2009 to create state mandated graduation plans. By the end of the year, the district had created graduation plans for 8,000 rising ninth graders. The graduation planning component now reaches students in grades 8-11, and will include grades 8-12 in 2012-2013.

504 plans - Next, the 504 plans rolled out to 1,200 students PreK-12. With the help of PCG trainers, the district trained over 600 staff members on the 504 plan system in a week-long training blitz. The solution has allowed the district to track 504-eligible students and report on the levels of services and accommodations being provided to these students.

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Rtl Academic plans - The EdPlan™ system supports MCS students' academic success from kindergarten through graduation. Teachers now have the capability to create plans for groups of students, increasing the efficiency of documenting student support plans. At least 15 student data sources are imported into EdPlan to give teachers quick access to the information they need to develop these plans.

Rtl Behavior plans – Educators are now able to identify students needing support with behavior. FBAs, BIPs, and Progress Monitoring tools are available to document interventions and track student progress.

S-Team process - In MCS, a student Support Team (S-Team) can be convened to make determinations about student academic and/or behavior interventions, or to review referrals to Special Education. This once paper-based process is now online, and the EdPlan™ platform helps S-Teams to more efficiently document the decisions made.

