PARAMOUNT USD EXPANDS EDUPOINT PRODUCT TO IMPROVE IEP MANAGEMENT AND CASEMIS REPORTING

The Client

Paramount Unified School District is a K-12 district serving more than 16,000 students in Los Angeles County, California. The district currently uses Edupoint's Synergy® Student Information System (SIS) to manage, track, and report detailed class schedules, grades, attendance, health records, and disciplinary information on all students in the district.

The Problem

Over the last several years, California has increased its management, data collection, and reporting requirements for special education instruction. Those requirements, besides including the development and maintenance of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for each special education student, include increased accountability and emphasis on performance indicators for students. Paramount had struggled to comply with the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) and California Special Education Management Information System (CASEMIS) regulations while using two outdated and decentralized

software solutions with very limited reporting capabilities and many manual processes. Also, while the district had a number of excellent educators and district administrators with extensive IEP experience, their systems did not facilitate collaboration or mentoring between faculty or staff members. Instead, the systems maintained separate databases for each user, and provided no means for the district or schools to store and secure special education student information and IEPs.

The Solution

After a comprehensive evaluation of special education management solutions in the market, Paramount chose Edupoint's Synergy® Special Education (SE) system. Paramount recognized Edupoint's understanding of the state's regulatory environment and saw firsthand how the company's Synergy SIS student management solution met those stringent compliance requirements. Troy Marshall, Paramount USD Director of Technology, believes the selection of Edupoint and Synergy SE makes great sense

for the district, "Synergy SE is an excellent addition to our student data management solution set. Together, Synergy SIS and Synergy SE provide an immediate solution for our CALPADS and CASEMIS reporting requirements, eliminating many hours of manual processing costs and delivering better, more accurate reporting. Over the next school year, as we roll out the IEP program through Synergy SE, we will automate and improve that process as well."

The Synergy SE system tracks steps in the district's customized special education process, ensuring tasks and required forms and documents are completed in compliance with required timelines. Local administrators can access student data from their site to confirm compliance, and district administrators can access summary reports from all campuses. Paramount staff felt no other vendor came close to the Synergy SE solution's compliance reporting functionality.

Synergy SE also includes features that allow users to generate IEPs more efficiently. After special education teachers create and store the student IEP online, the multiple service providers assigned to that student can access the IEP and contribute the specific information related to their roles. In addition to the compliance timelines and risk indicators mentioned above, the system lists IEP process steps for a student, controls their sequence, and prevents skipped steps. Team members can access a searchable goal library and select specific goals, aligned to standards, to save significant time in setting IEP goals.

Synergy SE resides on Edupoint's Synergy® Technology development platform and is fully integrated with the Synergy SIS application in use by Paramount. Instead of multiple user databases, Paramount now uses a single centralized SQL database for student information and special education data management, eliminating duplicate data entry and removing the requirement for a custom data interface between systems. Paramount also benefits from a lower total cost of ownership from server consolidation and streamlined IT processes for software maintenance, release management, and ongoing technical support to end-users.

The Results

Paramount, now completely compliant with CALPADS reporting requirements due to their Synergy SIS implementation, is in the beginning stages of the Synergy SE system deployment throughout the district.

The Synergy SE solution will automate most special education data management tasks so that data collection is more accurate and requires less of the faculty's time. The system will allow close collaboration between team members and enforce a district-defined workflow that ensures completion of all steps in the process and enables online monitoring of that progress by administrators. Data sharing across forms eliminates data entry tasks and human error, while automated data validation will ensure data accuracy.

Paramount has already seen a significant return on their investment in Synergy SIS, and with the ability to grow and evolve the system with the addition of Synergy SE and other modules as needed, they expect those returns to continue for many years to come.

Synergy®
Education Platform

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