app-garden

Case Study

Travel Tracker
Cloud Based Solutions for
K-12 Administration

Bidding out field trips and staying in compliance with union rules is a big challenge, according to Assistant Director of Transportation, Deanna Maddux, of North Thurston School District, Washington. The manual, "in-person" process for assigning field trips resulted in many grievances and conflicts. It was also a very time consuming and inconvenient process for the drivers. The Travel Tracker from The App-garden has virtually eliminated driver grievances, made the entire process easier and helps to keep drivers out of overtime pay.

The Challenge

The process of driver bidding previously consisted of a round-robin style system. Bidding proceeded through a list of about 82 drivers who were organized by seniority. Administrators called through the list of drivers and each would bid on a trip number and communicate any questions or concerns they had with that specific trip.

After completing the entire list, they would continue through again in round two and so on. This would repeat until all field trips were booked or all drivers 40-hour limits were reached. If there were still more field trips, they would continue the bidding process with substitute drivers. This was a very time consuming and difficult process for drivers and the transportation department.

The Solution

These issues were alleviated with the Travel Tracker. Instead of holding a live bidding session every week, administrators at North Thurston can schedule out an open portal for drivers to bid on trips. This portal allows drivers a set amount of time to bid on their desired trips, which they can access from anywhere with an Internet connection. The cloud-based interface allows this process to take place by phone or by computer. This eliminates the issue of inclement weather and other emergencies; while making bidding more convenient for everyone.

The Travel Tracker application ensures drivers are not assigned to trips with a scheduling conflict. Therefore, there are less irritated drivers and no vacancies left in the driver position. When drivers are upset with how they have been placed, administrators have a hands-on tool to provide drivers with a clear explanation for why they were assigned or not assigned a trip. Driver grievances now have simply gone away or have no merit.

The Company

The App- Garden has spent the last 25 years in technology for education and have a tremendous amount of experience in the administrative processes throughout school districts. Our desire is to help grow the efficiency of your district.

App-Garden has supported hundreds of school districts in the past 25 years and has developed many applications to improve work flow processes for these districts.
The App-Garden provides a cloud-based platform that allows us to assist with these processes in any district.

The Benefits

▶ **Easy to Use** - Our software is simple to use and understand, regardless of your user technical background.

▶ **Keep Everyone in the Loop** - Ensure that everyone involved in the planning and approving school trips is up to date with easy accessible information.

▶ **Driver Bidding** - Easily assign drivers to available field trips, while taking into account seniority and preferred schedule.