

Success Story

Cayen Systems Helps Wayne County Public Schools Breeze Through Federal Audit

The Wayne County Public School District, with 19,500 students, is one of the largest in North Carolina. It's a mostly rural district with many people living below the federal poverty line.

Nearly 13,000 of the students are eligible for educational assistance. This is provided through five federally funded programs provided by the county's 33 schools. The five are Title I, Migrant, Homeless, 21st Century Grants, and Priority Education. Each program uses federal funds for operations, technology, equipment, furnishings, maintenance, and nutrition programs.

The district also owns two federally funded buses called "Wee Wings" which serve as mobile classrooms for those children that live in poverty stricken areas. The district literally takes the buses to these areas so that the three and four year old children living there can receive a Pre-K program.

As part of funding programs the federal government requires that the district keep track of all the assets that were procured with the funds, such as calculators, cameras, computers, desks, chairs, and vehicles like the Wee Wings buses. Each year the district is subject to an audit of the assets procured.

In addition to the federally funded assets, the school district was also maintaining an inventory of non-federally funded fixed assets.



Debbie Ogburn
Director of
Federal Programs

Debbie Ogburn, the county's Director of Federal Programs, says, "We were doing two different auditing procedures. I was doing the federal audit each year and others were doing fixed asset tracking. I said, 'Why can't we just get together and do one?'"

Debbie was using programs from Cayen Systems, located in Milwaukee, WI, for tracking homeless and migrant students and for tracking inventory, and had previously used Cayen's SES Tutoring Management software. She contacted Cayen about a unified system for tracking both federal and non-federal assets. Cayen demonstrated its newest system, called *Property*, which had nearly all the features that Wayne County needed. At the County's request Cayen added depreciation functionality which was needed for their larger assets. Wayne County looked at other systems, too, but in early 2014 they chose to move forward with *Property*.

Debbie says, "One of the reasons we chose Cayen was price. But, I also knew that Cayen had always been a reputable company for us. They have always done anything we've asked and that was more important to me than the money. Plus, when other companies showed us their programs we could see that they were just not as user-friendly as the Cayen program."

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Cayen provides a free scanning app that is compatible with iPods, iPhones and iPads. A person need only go into a room and scan asset tag bar codes. The app records the scan date and asset location. The captured data is then transmitted to a centralized database.

Debbie says, "*Property* lets me put in a program code such as Title 1, and it will pull out every piece of information that is in my Title 1 program. That's been the best thing in the world because I can just hit one button and know exactly what's in that program and where it all is. Then, I can do my Migrant, and then I can do my Homeless and the rest, so I've got a report for each program."

The proof of the value of *Property* took place in early 2015 when a federal audit took place. Debbie says, "When the auditors came I had to have a book listing all the assets. They then went into a school of their choice and said, 'show us these 25 things in your school.' They found everything and it was fast. They were very impressed that I could just access my database and find where everything was."

Property was so fast and accurate that the audit, planned for five days, was completed in two and a half days. Wayne County received a perfect audit for the first time in the history of the audits including both the Title I and non-Title I funding.

A number of other county and state officials are equally impressed with Cayen. Debbie says, "A gentleman came from a neighboring county to look at *Property* and he loved it. The way I show the system is to pull up a sheet for an asset and they can see that everything is right there."

"I tell people that Cayen is happy to add things. If you see something that you want and they can do it, they'll do it. That is so important to us because if we find a glitch and say, 'Oh, my goodness. We need such and such,' they will do it for us."

Debbie is delighted with Cayen. She adds, "Their customer service is wonderful. They are so nice and friendly and will take as much time with you as you need."

The program is very user-friendly and Cayen just goes above and beyond to make sure that their customers are happy and they have what they need. The first thing that usually comes out of my mouth, is 'I just love the company' because they have done so much for us."

