

CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS



SCHOOL DISTRICT PROFILE

- » Tamalpais Union High School District
- » Public school in San Francisco Bay area
- » Celebrated its 100th year in 2008
- » Approximately 3,849 students
- » Approximately 220 full-time teachers
- » Five schools including three comprehensive high schools, grades 9 to 12; one continuation high school; one independent studies high school
- » Expects 100% of teachers will use **eSchoolPLUS** student information system by 2011

CHALLENGES

- CALPADS system is a work in progress
- Deadlines change, software is not yet finished
- System has technical challenges and problems, affecting school districts
- CALPADS does not seamlessly integrate with districts' existing SIS

eSchoolPLUS SOLUTION

- Student Administration
- Home Access
- Teacher Access

BENEFITS

- SunGard eliminates many unnecessary steps, reducing the cost and time associated with CALPADS compliance
- SunGard stays up-to-date with IBM and California, freeing up districts' resources to focus on other matters
- Based on its expertise, SunGard guides school districts through the critical first step of data certification
- Online user manual developed and updated by SunGard is a district's first line of defense for questions and guidance

SunGard K-12 Education: A Strong Ally for CALPADS Compliance

State of Emergency?

There is no text book or easy answer to the problems posed by California's mandate for all school districts to use CALPADS, a statewide reporting system, to track and monitor students.

No matter which technology individual districts use internally, they are required to integrate their systems with CALPADS—developed by IBM for California—and meet a set of deadlines in order to be compliant. Yet a series of missed dates, software issues, and other problems have besieged CALPADS, leading to frustration among education IT professionals, their software partners, and administrators.

Data transfer is not seamless or accurate in all cases. Often, districts must maintain separate databases, creating more work—often with the same or fewer staff because of budget cuts—and potentially generating the possibility of errors. In addition, CALPADS software is slow and unstable, frequently freezing and locking users out of the system, said Joel Hames, Senior Director of Instructional Technology at Tamalpais Union High School District in the San Francisco Bay area of California.

"We are certainly excited about the potential of having a standardized way of reporting information to the state, of consolidating many reporting mechanisms into one," said Hames. "The concept is exciting. But right now, we're so mired in incomplete and inaccurate data transfer environments or data representation environments that it's very hard to buy into that or it's very hard to feel that's where we're going."

Partnering for Progress

Tamalpais is not alone, however, in dealing with the problems associated with CALPADS. The five-school district, which has about 4,000 students, uses SunGard K-12 Education's **eSchoolPLUS** Student Information System. And SunGard has become a strong ally in overcoming the challenges associated with the state's mandates.

"SunGard and **eSchoolPLUS** have made it much easier to deal with. They've automated a lot of the processes we would have to do on our own, and have saved me time that I don't have."

TERRIE CROTTI
Senior IT Data Specialist,
Tamalpais Union High School District

SunGard has reduced some of the time required to keep abreast with CALPADS changes, said Terrie Crotti, Senior IT Data Specialist at Tamalpais. SunGard, for example, created an online user manual, created extracts and has automated many processes, she said.

"If we didn't have help from SunGard, if they didn't create extracts for us, we would have to create spreadsheets on our own, we'd have to create calculations on our own, and we'd have to correct the errors," said Crotti. "SunGard and **eSchoolPLUS** have made it much easier to deal with. They've automated a lot of the processes we would have to do on our own, and have saved me time that I don't have."

Although CALPADS did not exist when Tamalpais was researching a student information system, the district wanted a provider that had a well-structured database as well as a state-reporting department, Hames said. Unlike its competitors, SunGard met both criteria, he noted. "We knew in a general way what was coming, we didn't know how detailed it was going to be," said Hames. "It requires us, internally, to be highly accurate and precise about our data yet requires us to work with a system at the state level that doesn't seem to have the same requirements."

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING

Watch our SunGard K-12 Education customer testimonials here:
youtube.com/user/SunGardK12Education



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SunGard continues to stay current with the changes IBM makes to CALPADS, working both with the technology and attending educational forums and government conferences to stay well-versed on all aspects of the far-reaching mandate. SunGard helps clients get data certified, the first major step in becoming compliant with CALPADS, said Shelley Hall, Product Consultant, at SunGard K-12 Education.

"We've got the dedicated team available and we've got the knowledge. We have the competitive knowledge nationwide," she said. "We provide our clients with a product they can use now and the assurance they'll be able to use it tomorrow. We stay up with the changes IBM is making to the software and the changes the state is making to accommodate those changes. We're not only putting out fires and juggling; we're looking ahead, and trying to make this as seamless as possible for our clients, based on our experience and success working with other state-wide systems and school districts in other states."

About Us

SunGard K-12 Education is a leader in the K-12 Education Industry, providing secure, web-based, and reliable software solutions for student management, financial and human resources, learning management, and special education in K-12 schools. SunGard K-12 Education currently works with over 1,500 school districts around the country to deliver K-12 software solutions, designed specifically to support student achievement.

To learn more:

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