

CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS



SCHOOL DISTRICT PROFILE

- » Public school district located in southern Maryland
- » Suburban and rural district
- » About 17,000 students
- » 26 schools including:
 - 17 elementary schools
 - 4 middle schools
 - 5 high schools
 - 2 special programs

CHALLENGES

- Hiring temporary staff to process student enrollments at the start of the school year
- Duplicating efforts required for student enrollment, creating multiple copies of applications
- Data entry errors cause problems later in the school year

OBJECTIVES

- Save time and money enrolling new students
- Eliminate a paper-driven process and find an eco-friendly solution
- Eliminate errors

eSchoolPLUS SOLUTION

- Enrollment Online eliminates hours of paperwork and data entry errors

BENEFITS

- Efficient process saves time and money
- Saves thousands of reams of paper every school year
- Enters student information into the district records as soon as they're accepted

St. Mary's County Public School District Saving time and money with Enrollment Online

Saving paper, conserving resources

Doing paperwork is always a chore, especially when the paperwork involves writing the same information over and over. Until this year, St. Mary's County Public School District in Maryland had the same problem many districts do, they were bound by a labor-intensive, paper-driven process for enrolling new students.

Before Enrollment Online [parents] would come in and fill out papers and papers and papers," said Don Asher, Assistant Administrative Analyst for the district. "The biggest waste of time was duplicating redundant student information, like home address, on multiple forms that had to go to many different offices," he said.

Eliminating enrollment delays

By providing web access to students, the system helps them take responsibility for their work. By offering up-to-the minute attendance information to parents, it's contributing to lower dropout and skipped-class rates. And by allowing all educators to view a broad spectrum of student information, data—not intuition—has begun to guide decision making. "The combination of all those seamless parts is effective and efficient," said Director of Secondary Schools James Scott Smith.

Now all stakeholders work together to enhance learning. "The bottom line is, with all of that firing on all cylinders, who wins? Our kids. Our kids are winning every day in St. Mary's County Public Schools."

Transformations in education

St. Mary's struggled at the beginning of the school year when everyone would try to register new students at once. "We've had issues where, in very narrow windows of time, large numbers of parents show up to enroll students. In many cases, we had waiting lists while we tried to process the large number of students," Asher said.

Prior to using Enrollment Online, parents were overburdened with filling out the same student information on at least eight different forms. Not only did the process

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DON ASHER
Assistant Administrative Analyst,
St. Mary's County Public Schools

take hours, but asking parents to enter the same information over and over also led to data discrepancies and hand-writing that was sometimes hard to read. That meant district staff spent time verifying data with parents instead of processing it.

Asher and St. Mary's needed to find a better way. "We wanted to find a solution to quickly enroll students without wasting staff and parent time," he said.

Streamlining the enrollment process

The district found a solution with Enrollment Online and this year the enrollment process is getting a whole lot easier. Because of local requirements, parents are required to show physical proof of residence, but the days of handing them stacks of paper to fill out are gone. Now, parents come to the district and enter their information at a special kiosk, making the enrollment process go much smoother.

With Enrollment Online, parents only need to enter the information one time, and once the student is accepted, their student data is automatically added to the district's enrollment database. Using Enrollment Online also allows the district to integrate enrollment data into the district's student information system, eSchoolPLUS, as well as every department that requires it, vastly reducing processing time.

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING

Watch our SunGard K-12 Education customer testimonials here:

[youtube.com/user/SunGardK12Education](https://www.youtube.com/user/SunGardK12Education)



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Asher estimates that implementing Enrollment Online will reduce the time it takes parents to complete the paperwork from hours to mere minutes. And staff? Eliminating the redundant data entry will save the district "easily hundreds and hundreds of hours," Asher said.

Adopting new technology

St. Mary's County Public School District has always embraced new technology. They've relied on their excellent working relationship with SunGard K-12 Education to make the transition to any new products an easy one.

"The teamwork we have with SunGard has provided us the opportunity to use the products to their greatest potential. We've been very, very happy with the support SunGard has provided us," said Asher.

About Us

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