

CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS



SCHOOL DISTRICT PROFILE

- » Public school district centrally located between Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio, Texas
- » Rural and suburban area
- » About 14,500 total students
- » 24 schools:
 - 15 elementary schools
 - 5 middle schools
 - 4 high schools

SOLUTION

- **eFinancePLUS** Financial and Human Resource System

BENEFITS

- Promotes independence. Tools such as Favorites and Advanced Searches allow employees to perform tasks without involving MIS.
- Saves time. Web-based HR features make hiring employees and tracking benefits more convenient, complete and efficient.
- Saves money. Integrated Optio laser paycheck printing module has significantly cut printing expenses.

Bryan Independent School District benefits from smooth and efficient workflow process with eFinancePLUS

The city of Bryan, Texas lies in the middle of the geographic triangle made by Houston, San Antonio and Dallas. At the center of life here is Bryan Independent School District—and at the heart of the district's success lies SunGard K-12 Education's **eFinancePLUS** fund accounting system. **eFinancePLUS** manages the district's accounting, human resources, budget, warehouse, fixed asset, and payroll data. The system provides employees the independence they need to perform queries, reports, and data updates without relying on the MIS department.

"Independence" is an attribute that's admired throughout Texas. In the Bryan ISD school district, employees have benefited from a boost in independence thanks to the SunGard K-12 Education **eFinancePLUS** fund accounting software system. "People all over the district can perform functions all on their own—tasks that before they'd have to call MIS to do for them," said Jennifer Lemons, MIS Director at Bryan Independent School District, "**eFinancePLUS** empowers school districts that don't have large MIS staffs."

eFinancePLUS provides a true K-12 accounting system based on a single, district-wide database. Employees with proper authorization can access, modify, or update the information as part of their daily functions. As soon as new data is entered, it becomes immediately available throughout the district. So whether they're cutting a purchase requisition or crunching numbers for next year's budget, Bryan ISD employees always have access to accurate data.

Not only is the data up-to-date, but it's easy to work with thanks to the intuitive interface in **eFinancePLUS**. The system's technology allows district employees to keep their workflow processes smooth and efficient—so they don't have to rely on the MIS department for queries and reports. "We want people to be hands-on with their data," said Lemons, "**eFinancePLUS** lets our staff find what they're looking for, fast."

Favorites and Custom Desktops

Lemons appreciates the system's built-in features that allow individual workers to

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MIS Director, Bryan Independent School District, TX

perform advanced functions with ease. For example, the Favorites feature bypasses multi-step menus with the click of a button so district employees complete their tasks in a fraction of the time they once needed. Lemons recalled an instance when she observed one Bryan employee, Tiffany Lee, drilling down through a series of menus in order to print warehouse requisitions. Lemons showed Lee how to use the Favorites feature to quickly access the desired functionality. "She said, 'That's really cool!' and she now has a long list of Favorites," said Lemons.

Custom Desktops also help Bryan employees work more productively. Business Manager Kelly Gallagher makes good use of her custom desktop, which includes about 20 Favorites. "Everyone performs different tasks, so their desktops appear different as they work," said Gallagher, "The Custom Desktop remembers how I like my desktop saved."

Advanced searches and reporting

The Advanced Search option is another feature that has helped the Bryan staff work more independently. District employees can save search parameters to allow the query to be run again later in just a few clicks. What's more, those queries can be marked as public so others can take advantage of their colleagues' efficiency. "I help grant managers and the HR staff save their common searches as public," said Lemons, "so the information they used to ask MIS for is always at their fingertips."

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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Now that the flow of how-to questions and requests for reports has slowed down, the MIS staff can spend more time on specialized tasks.

Saving time and money with laser paychecks

Just as important as saving time is saving money for Bryan ISD. SunGard K-12 Education has helped the district find a number of ways to reduce costs. For example, Bryan ISD recently achieved significant savings by implementing a SunGard K-12 Education third-party add-on system to print its paychecks.

"Using the Optio software and a regular laser printer, Payroll has saved a tremendous amount of time and money," said Lemons. Previously, processing paychecks was a lengthy task that included paying a substitute clerk to stuff 2,500 envelopes over the course of two full work days. Now all paychecks are printed, folded, and sealed by machine in just an hour and a half. "We were very impressed with the speed and efficiency of the new system," said Lemons. Payroll tasks that once required three full-time staff members can now be performed with just two and a half employees.

"SunGard K-12 Education has built strong relationships with excellent third-party companies like Optio," said Lemons. Bryan ISD purchased the Optio software directly through SunGard K-12 Education and SunGard K-12 Education's technicians helped set up the system. The paycheck printing system now runs seamlessly with eFinancePLUS. "When we were ready to add the new paycheck features," said Lemons, "SunGard K-12 Education was there to help make the implementation easy."

Online Job Applications

The Job Applicant Center is another feature that has saved the district time and money. "It's a big improvement in the process of hiring," said Lemons. Before, when principals needed to hire a new teacher, they had to telephone the HR office and specify the skills they were looking for. Someone at HR would

manually review the resumes on file then pull paper resumes to make copies. Once that paperwork was ready, the principal had to travel to the HR office in person to review the information. "It was a long drawn out process," said Lemons.

Those time-consuming, manual steps are now long gone. "We've completely gotten rid of paper applications," said Lemons, "Now the principals can do it all themselves. They can read about job candidates from home or their offices, even if all they have is 15 free minutes during the school day."

Principals simply enter the qualifications they're looking for, such as certifications and years of experience, and the system pulls a set of applications that fit their criteria. The online application process puts the district in a better position to receive more high-quality resumes, since it's so convenient for applicants from near and far to apply online.

Employee Access Center

Once hired, teachers and administrators at Bryan ISD also benefit from the convenience of a web-based self-service Employee Access Center. "The Employee Access Center module is a huge benefit," said Lemons.

Teachers frequently use the Employee Access Center to verify their leave time. A web page shows a convenient color-coded calendar specifying each teacher's vacation days, sick days, and holidays. In addition to any of their personal information, if a change needs to be made, employees can directly email a Human Resources staff member from a link on the web page. "The system encourages communication and expedites solutions," said Lemons.

Employees can also access their benefit eligibility, payment history, deductions, and a list of their certifications. "It was never very easy to find out that information before," said district Business Manager Kelly Gallagher, "Now employees can sit down and look it up anytime."

Gallagher particularly likes the feature that combines salary and benefit values to allow employees to "see the total package"

that they're receiving from the district. Knowing the sum of their salary, healthcare, and retirement benefits helps Bryan ISD employees retain a high level of workplace satisfaction.

eFinancePLUS: Central to Bryan's success

Many self-starting employees at Bryan ISD have been able to do more on their own thanks to SunGard K-12 Education's eFinancePLUS. "It's incredible to see how self-sufficient people have become," said Lemons, "It's been a big plus for Bryan ISD." Employees seem to have eagerly embraced their expanded capabilities. After all, "independent" is Bryan ISD's middle name.

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.

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