

CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS



SCHOOL DISTRICT PROFILE

- » More than 1,400 employees
- » More than 9,130 students

CHALLENGE

- The district's legacy system was failing its users and losing data. The district needed to find a replacement that was user-friendly and could be up and running in an extremely short period of time.

OBJECTIVES

- Replace the existing legacy system with a reliable, user-friendly system
- Have the system up and running prior to the first day of school
- Minimize employee downtime during the transition

Rapid eSchoolPLUS Implementation Gets Port Arthur ISD Ready for a New School Year

The staff at Port Arthur Independent School District in Port Arthur, Texas, is enjoying a more user-friendly student information system this year.

Facing a problematic legacy system that was failing its users, the district turned to SunGard K-12 Education and eSchoolPLUS.

The district made the decision based on one thing, its users. "Simply put, we could not see ourselves going through another year with our legacy system. We were experiencing too many difficulties and the level of frustration among our users was unacceptable," said Dr. Ramiro Zuniga, the district's Chief of Technology.

With only a very small implementation window, SunGard K-12 Education and Port Arthur's staff worked together to produce one of the fastest eSchoolPLUS implementations ever.

"Believe it or not, it was a matter of weeks," Zuniga said. "Our first day of school was August 22, 2011, and when school opened, eSchoolPlus was operational...We had teachers accessing the grade books and taking attendance. We had registration running. We had counselors working with the scheduling module. The first day of school went very well."

One key component of the rapid implementation was that SunGard gave the district access to a cloud-based version of eSchoolPLUS. This access meant that district work could go on, even before the new hardware was in the building.

"This implementation has been the fastest in my 25+ year career. Interestingly enough, this has not been the most difficult conversion of my career."

DR. RAMIRO ZUNIGA
Chief of Technology
Port Arthur Independent School District

And how did this implementation stack up against others? "This implementation has been the fastest in my 25+ year career. Interestingly enough, this has not been the most difficult conversion of my career," he said.

With only a few months of eSchoolPLUS experience, the district is already reporting a marked improvement over its legacy system.

"Users have commented frequently on the user-friendliness of the software," Zuniga said. "Most of the users have told me that the software works in a very straightforward manner. Furthermore, our users have indicated that the learning curve has been minimal."

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING

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





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