



SPECTRUM K12'S ENCORE^{fi} PRODUCT ENABLES RICHARDSON ISD TO OVERCOME LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES AND REPORTING CONCERNS ABOUT STATE AND FEDERAL MANDATED COMPLIANCE REGULATIONS

RICHARDSON ISD RICHARDSON, TEXAS

**Total Student
Enrollment - 34,000**

**Special ed student
enrollment - 4,200**

**Number of Special
Education staff - 276**

"Encore has relieved the staff of the burden of paperwork and the complexity of compliance issues so they can focus more time on instruction and improving student achievement."

Dr. Sandy Roland
Director of Assessment and
Behavior Management
Richardson ISD



The Richardson Independent School District, is celebrating its second year as a "recognized" school district under the State of Texas' student accountability system. RISD is the currently the largest most diverse District in the state to earn this high ranking. RISD is located in northern Dallas County and lies in parts of Richardson, Dallas, and Garland, Texas. This district greets over 34,000 students every day and over 10% of the District's students require and receive special services. Like many suburban school districts, Richardson ISD has a highly mobile student population, which makes tracking special education data an even more difficult and time consuming process. Additionally, the district was using an outdated, unreliable ARD (IEP) software program that frequently would result in staff members forgoing the software and completing the ARD (IEP) documents by hand.

Richardson ISD adopted Spectrum K12's data management system, Encore, in the fall of 2006. "The staff readily adopted Encore because it is easy to use and it provides them with the proper tools to ensure that the district is in compliance with state and federal regulations and timelines," stated Dr. Sandy Roland, Richardson ISD's Director of Assessment and Behavior Management. "Encore has relieved the staff of the burden of paperwork and the complexity of compliance issues so they can focus more time on instruction and improving student achievement. Foremost, Encore allows us to integrate with our student information system and access data easily."

Since 2000, Richardson ISD has also been using Spectrum K12's Facilitated IEP Professional Development training. "Because of our success with the trainings and our strong, long lasting relationship with Spectrum K12, it made sense to integrate Encore into the district. Working with one company that provides the district with the much needed technology solutions we need has been instrumental in streamlining our work with special education and at-risk students."

Accountability

"With Encore, we now operate proactively and that saves time and money for the district," Dr. Roland said. "The built-in compliance features of Encore ensure that we are meeting state and federal requirements and timelines. The district is now experiencing complete, compliant ARD (IEP) documents that arrive on time."

Performance

With Encore, Richardson ISD has seen an overall increase in staff morale. "We have had valuable assessment staff near retirement choose to continue their career because of the relief that Encore has provided," Roland declared. Between the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years, Richardson ISD had near 100% retention of their assessment staff.

CHALLENGES

Accountability:

-Too many overdue ARDs/IEPs

-Too many incomplete ARDs/IEPs

Performance:

-Need for a more reliable software program

-Need to integrate with district Student Information System

Accessibility:

-Difficult to access special education data

-Need for a more easily accessible system for teachers

SOLUTION

Richardson ISD implemented Encore, saving the district time and money while increasing staff morale.

901 Dulaney Valley Road
Suite 800
Towson, MD 21204
800.490.8445
www.spectrumK12.com

Accessibility

"The district has seen an immediate decrease in time spent gathering data because of Encore. In the past, we went out to each school and pulled the ARD (IEP) document to find the data we needed. Now we can immediately access and gather data," Roland stated. "Our staff loves having access from home, as well as the ability to view their students' data without having to locate an ARD (IEP) document."

about Encore

Encore helps schools dramatically improve special education management by ensuring compliance with state and federal law, saving training time, eliminating duplicate data entry, providing ease of access to centralized information and - ultimately - saving hundreds of dollars per student.

about FIEP/Professional Development Training

Spectrum K12 School Solutions' Professional Development Training fosters collaborative decision-making among student education planning team members, strengthening their focus on working for the benefit of the child. Spectrum K12's two core workshops and four supporting classes provide participants with learning process tools and strategies that are crucial for holding a compliant student education planning meeting, developing positive relationships between staff and parents, writing effective goals and objectives, reducing due process hearings, and applying roles and responsibilities in order to lead productive meetings.

about Spectrum K12

Based in Towson, MD, Spectrum K12 School Solutions, Inc. helps school districts more effectively manage the individualized learning process for all students receiving special services or interventions. Spectrum K12's Encore suite of products serves districts with enrollments of 3,000 through those exceeding 300,000 students. Spectrum K12 works collaboratively with districts to deliver scalable, easy-to-use software solutions that lift the burden of paperwork from education professionals so they can focus on the most important part of their work: educating children and improving student achievement.

For more information visit www.spectrumk12.com or call 877-994-4477.