



## SPECTRUM K12 HELPS ROUND ROCK ISD INCREASE STAFF TIME IN CLASSROOM AND ACCESS TO STUDENT DATA

### ROUND ROCK ISD ROUND ROCK, TEXAS

**Total Student Enrollment - 40,232**

**Special ed student enrollment - 3,400**

**Number of schools - 44**

**Number of Special Education staff - 800+**

***"The system is user friendly and we were able to easily train our teachers. The color-coded forms and automatic reminders were key in our decision to select Encore."***

Tony Garcia  
Deputy Superintendent of Instruction  
Round Rock ISD



Round Rock Independent School district, located outside Austin, Texas, is the second largest school district in Texas' Region 13. Like other districts their size, their administration had a difficult time accessing and retrieving data when needed. At the same time, the district's goal was to move to a more technology driven philosophy and their special education staff wanted to align themselves with this new way of thinking.

With their new philosophy in sight, Round Rock ISD researched computerized special education programs that would meet their district's needs and leave behind their old way of completing ARDs (IEPs) by hand. "It was so time consuming trying to retrieve data from our paper-based ARDs (IEPs) that we knew we had to find a web-based system that could provide us immediate access to our data," stated Round Rock ISD's Director of Special Education Linda Noy. "We also wanted a system that would be easily accessible to our teachers and that would reduce the time they spent on paperwork and ARD (IEP) meetings while increasing their time in the classroom."

After researching and reviewing multiple products, Round Rock ISD selected Spectrum K12 School Solutions' Encore Texas product. "Being able to align to our state reporting system, PEIMS, was crucial in our selection of Encore," exclaimed Noy, "We also liked the fact that we would be using a program with standard forms for the state of Texas and that we could have uniformity in our ARDs (IEPs) across districts using the program."

Round Rock ISD's staff began using Encore at the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year. "The system is user friendly and we were able to easily train our teachers," stated Round Rock ISD's Deputy Superintendent of Instruction Toni Garcia. "The color-coded forms and automatic reminders were key in our decision to select Encore."

### Accountability

With Encore, Round Rock ISD decreased the number of clerical assistants they needed to assist with paperwork from 21.5 to 12. "With Encore we do not need as many individuals spending their time checking for complete ARDs (IEPs) and entering data," said Garcia, "We were able to reallocate those staff into positions that can work directly with the students."

Noy stated "With Encore as a foundation, we anticipate building a solid collaboration between our general education and special education staff leading to a much stronger referral process. Because our staff is spending less time on ARD (IEP) paperwork and meetings, we have really been able to focus on specific areas of need in our special education process."

## CHALLENGES

### Accountability:

-Teachers needed more time with students and less time working on paperwork

-Alignment of system with state reporting

### Performance:

-Need for more effective ARD/IEP meetings

-ARDs/IEPs done on paper

### Accessibility:

-Difficult to access special education student data

-Need for an easily accessible system for teachers

## SOLUTION

The implementation of Encore allowed staff to spend less time on paperwork and data retrieval, and more time giving teachers and students the support they need.

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Over the past few years, Round Rock ISD has worked hard at focusing time and efforts towards decreasing their over-identification of special education students. Because of their dedication in providing appropriate services to all students, the district is elated to announce that they have decreased their special education population from 11.6% to 9.4%.

### Performance

Round Rock ISD has seen a decrease in ARD (IEP) paperwork and meeting times, allowing their staff more time in the classroom. "Our teachers feel their instructional time with their students has increased, which is having a positive impact on our student achievement," exclaimed Noy. "Our district intentionally invested in strong support for the implementation of Encore. The strength of our partnership with Spectrum K12 and ongoing district wide support, including designated Encore technical support within our district, has been the primary factors behind our successful implementation."

### Accessibility

"Our administrative and support staff love how easy it is to have instant access to every ARD (IEP) in Encore," declared Noy, "We spend less time searching for information, and more time giving our teachers and students the support they need."

## about Spectrum K12

Spectrum K12 School Solutions (formerly 4GL School Solutions) is the leading provider of software applications and professional development for teachers and administrators of special populations. Designed for school districts of all sizes, Spectrum K12's products remove the paperwork burden from teachers and administrators, giving you more time to focus on what you love - educating children.

### Info

For more information about Spectrum K12 and our proven solutions for special populations, please visit our Web site at [www.spectrumK12.com](http://www.spectrumK12.com), contact us by phone at 800.490.8445 or via email at [info@spectrumK12.com](mailto:info@spectrumK12.com).