

Rockingham County Schools

Administrative Offices
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“Edulog’s driver time and attendance tracking system (eDTA) is the best thing that has happened to the Rockingham County Schools transportation department in a long time. Since we introduced the system in August of 2010, we have saved more than \$200,000 by using the Edulog program to more accurately record work time for all employees on the buses. That’s a return on investment that you rarely see from software—especially software for school transportation.

“Using the system is simplicity itself. Drivers, aides, attendants, and other staff log in and out of their shifts using GPS-enabled cell phones on the vehicles. Back at the server, the system records the driver’s name, time in and out, trip type, and job classification. Because this is a mobile application, everyone can be tracked from wherever they are in the county or the state—there’s no need to be tied down to a fixed time clock.

“Of critical importance to us when we compared the benefits of the Edulog system to those from other companies was integration with our existing software and TIMS. Edulog has it, and no one else does. What other systems do is just move the log-in point from a time clock to the buses, but can do nothing about making sure that the drivers aren’t padding hours or wasting time because those systems have no connection to TIMS. But because the Edulog eDTA software is integrated with TIMS, we have: driver ID validation; instant verification that the driver is on the right vehicle and/or route; and full comparative analysis with the planned routing data in TIMS. If a driver or aide logs-in at 6:55 a.m. and the route isn’t scheduled to begin until 7:45, we know instantly that something isn’t right, and we can take immediate action. In the same manner, the eDTA system tells us when a driver or aide is late for a shift, which allows us to make whatever correction is needed, such as calling parents to say that bus will be late.

“Not only does the eDTA system compare actual vs. planned times so that we can manage abnormal events, the comparative analysis functions that come from having eDTA be integrated with TIMS allows us to closely monitor possible payroll abuse. Because everyone knows that we have the actual times and the planned times at hand through this integration, the savings in reported hours has really been significant. Other companies may tell you that they can compare planned vs. actual events with their timekeeping systems, but none of them can provide what we have with the eDTA and TIMS—full integration and constant updates as we make changes in the TIMS databases. Only Edulog can do this because only it can make the internal links from TIMS to timekeeping. And really, without this integration, the potential for any great savings with another timekeeping system just doesn’t exist.

“Another factor that we greatly appreciate is that Edulog made a significant business decision to commit to its North Carolina clients the development of a specialized version of eDTA that’s specifically designed to tightly integrate with TIMS. Edulog has been working closely with us and a number of other sites throughout the state to identify the various intricacies and nuances associated with NC district operations, and they have designed the current system to be: one, different from the eDTA used in other states; and two: specifically suited to match our requirements.

“As we worked with Edulog in implementing the eDTA system, we came to realize that while time and attendance seems like a simple thing (just login/logout, right?) it is actually extremely complicated when you consider all of the various scenarios that can happen on any particular day. Designing a system that can handle all of these different situations requires an enormous amount of software intelligence and sophistication. Through the process of coming to understand all of these details, we are absolutely convinced that Edulog is not only the best possible solution but that the company is the ONLY one that could possibly be successful in tackling all of this because of the need to rely on, and operate with, the TIMS system. The people of Edulog have bent over backwards to meet our needs, and they have always quickly and professionally responded with changes and suggestions as we came to learn more about the process of electronic timekeeping and the value of integration with routing and scheduling data. I can’t say enough about how dedicated Edulog has been at working with us.”

“Edulog also went beyond the call of duty in implementing the interface between eDTA and our Sartox payroll software. This integration is no simple matter, and requires much more than a simple data export that other companies say is all that is needed. Edulog worked very closely with us and with Sartox to make sure that everything fit together perfectly, and I’m amazed at how much effort Edulog put into the collaboration with Sartox to

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develop a data integration that matches exactly the way we operate. Again, I'm convinced that it is Edulog's software experience, knowledge, and programming talent that made all of this possible. We really didn't give much thought to the timekeeping/payroll integration when we first acquired the eDTA system, but we've come to see that our faith in Edulog has been justly rewarded."

"We pay transportation staff by the minute based on actual time worked, and the Edulog system gives us far greater timekeeping accuracy than what we had been doing by hand for years. This time includes a pre-trip time to inspect the bus and time to check the bus at the end of the route in order to report any problems to repair. Even further, Edulog was so dedicated to meeting the needs of the Rockingham County Schools that they created a way to pay the driver for the two minute time period the phone takes to boot up each time the bus is started.

"It is also easier for us to check the TIMS route with the actual time report from Edulog. We used paper records in the past and that was labor intensive for the driver, supervisor, transportation department, and the payroll department. Now with the electronic upload from the Edulog system, we have saved time for our principals/assistant principals and transportation staff who previously had to double check the accuracy of the report. Our payroll department has seen the accuracy improve as well. Much of the savings resulting from this system are directly attributable to this greater accuracy—at an average pay rate of \$14.47, each minute costs \$.24, which quickly adds up.

"Additional savings comes from the automation of the payroll function. Before we had the Edulog eDTA system, it took approximately a week, or often times longer to check time sheets and calling the schools that were late turning them in. It also took numerous hours each month to enter time data into our Sartox payroll system. Now this can be accomplished in minutes and with far greater accuracy, because the Edulog reports can be fed directly into the payroll system.

"Edulog also took the time to really get to know the culture of our transportation department and how we go about things. Out of those discussions, Edulog created three custom reports. As just one example, they created a report for us that has job classifications. We have a lot of drivers who also have another job along with driving a bus. An individual during any given day can be a driver, aide, or sub or a combination of the three. These different job classifications determine what pay grade is assigned to each group etc. The Edulog system helps us pay for both jobs with overlapping time. The electronic format helps us better than ever before.

"Installation of the system was incredibly easy—just moving the application to the cell phones and installing the software on the server. Edulog gave us very thorough training on how the system works, and helped us develop the instructional plan for everyone using the timekeeping functions. Introducing a new system, and the inherent changes, is never easy, but the implementation of the eDTA software went as smoothly as possible. We worked alongside Edulog with our staff to help train all our drivers and supervisors. They went above and beyond to ensure we were successful with the transition to the new system.

"The Edulog project managers and support staff have also been extremely attentive and informative as we continue to use the system, and the level of communication between us and the company has been outstanding.

"In conclusion, I highly recommend this system to any school district that wants to control costs and increase efficiency. The software, service, and support have all been better than I would have hoped for, and the resulting savings have been appreciated immensely by the Rockingham County Schools."