



THE EDULOGGER

Quarter Two, 2022

www.edulog.com

info@edulog.com

406.728.0893

WHAT'S IN YOUR TOOLBOX?

IN THIS ISSUE

IT Announcement

GPS Hardware Extended
Delivery Timelines

Spotlight

Cheers for Peers

Data Overview Report

It's Rollover Season

Shawna's Ask Me
Anything

What Do Hay and Barns
Have to Do with School
Startup?

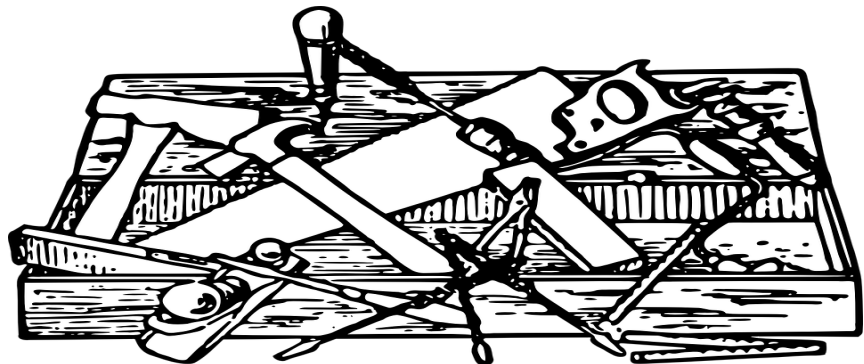
AM/PM Tool Box

Ride Registration – The
Value of True Ridership

Case Study from the
Advisory Services Group

An Edulog Word Search

“Using the tools you already have doesn't mean that you have to get off your continuous improvement program. It just means that perhaps you change the timing of introducing significant changes to minimize adding risk and stress to a stressful time of year.”



IT ANNOUNCEMENT: IMPORTANT DATES!

By Eric Fischl

Our IT department will be reserving the following quarterly windows for the performance of regular system maintenance:

September 18, 2022

December 18, 2022

These windows will occur on Sundays, between 2 pm and 4 pm, Mountain Time. During this maintenance period, you may experience a brief outage of your hosted Edulog applications. Thank you for your patience and please contact your account manager with any questions.

GPS HARDWARE EXTENDED DELIVERY TIMELINES

By Matt O'Leary

We all have felt the ripple effect from supply chain disruptions in the past couple of years, from baked goods, to new cars, and even toilet paper! Here at Edulog, we are at the mercy of a complicated network of global supply chains, and despite our best efforts, we are still caught up in the erratic ebb and flow of goods that is now commonplace in today's turbulent market. A simplified diagram of the supply chain pressures is shown below.

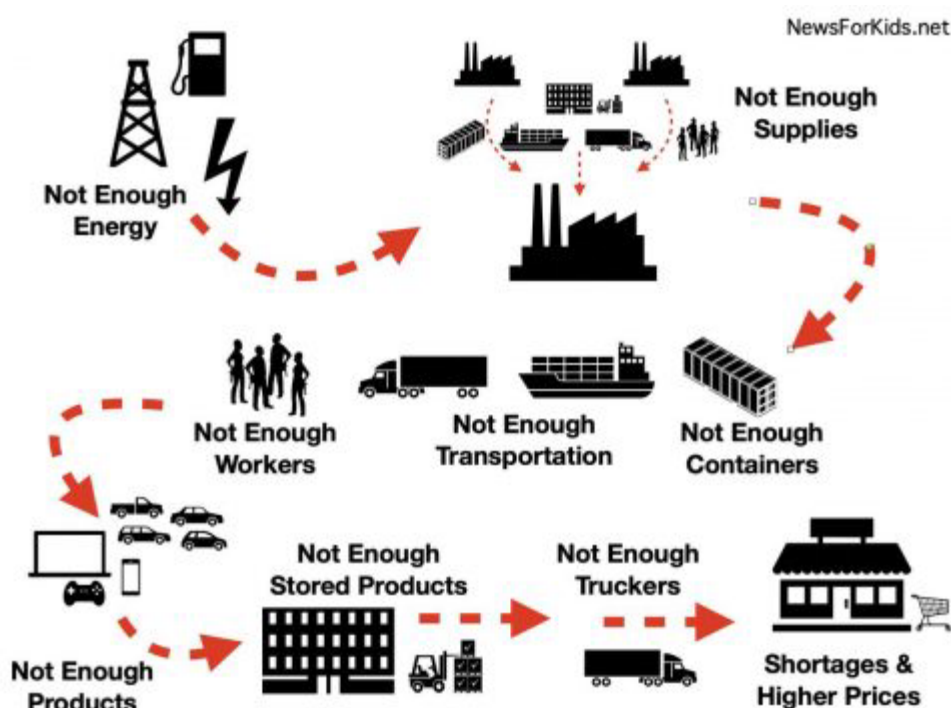


Figure 1 nfk editors (2021, october 20). World struggles with supply chain problems. Retrieved May 16th, 2022, from <https://newsforkids.net/articles/2021/10/20/world-struggles-with-supply-chain-problems/>

We would like to extend our appreciation for your patience as we weather long wait times for many of our products. Some of you placed orders in the fall of 2021 and had hopes as well as initial guidance of early 2022 delivery. We have seen these deliveries fall behind, and we now expect that the completion of these deliveries will not be accomplished until at least October (hopefully not later!)

Please reach out if these delays are really putting you in a bind. In some cases, we have been able to provide other products that, although they do not match your currently equipped hardware, can be a viable option for your needs. [Click here to contact us!](#)

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: SARAH HUTCHERSON



Sarah is a valued member of our Account Management team who just celebrated her one-year anniversary with Edulog. Sarah tells us that she has finally found her ‘nest’; a career she can settle into for the long haul. She is excited to be a part of a company that she identifies as having “passion and innovation for their craft.” And she strives to go above and beyond the call of duty for her clients, as well as supporting her coworkers.

In her free time – wait – Sarah is a mother of two VERY active boys (14 and 8), she has no free time! With her husband, they have built two high school-aged baseball club teams and have been advocating for the sanction of high school baseball in Montana. She also enjoys painting with charcoal (her preferred medium), crocheting, carpentry, and spending time with her “zoo.” Sarah’s family has three dogs, three cats, a snake, and two hairless rats; in addition, Sarah herself has two Skinny Pigs, which are hairless guinea pigs. Ham Solo and Moto-moto are the only things Sarah proclaims she is “selfish” about. Please welcome Sarah to the Edulog team! We are happy to have her working with you.

Favorite Food: Pizza and donuts, I have a strong infatuation with sweets, especially Reese’s.

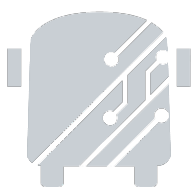
Favorite Color: Tahitian Teal

Favorite Edulog Product: Right now, it is Parent Portal. I LOVE that I can set an alert to let me know the bus is getting close to our stop!

Dream Vacation: Scotland. I am Bohemian German, which is present-day Czechoslovakia, I would very much like to visit the land of my ancestors. I would also like to take my boys to see the lands of their Viking ancestors in modern-day Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

Edulog Advice: Communication is key, stay in contact so that we can be sure to keep your department running like a well-oiled machine!

Quote: Man, how do I pick just one? “Mean what you say; just don’t be mean when you say it.” ~Alma Wahlberg (Mark Wahlberg’s mom)



CHEERS FOR PEERS



Our team members are an essential part of bringing Edulog to you, our clients. Our Cheers for Peers program celebrates both everyday and extraordinary feats of teamwork, whether in client-facing work or behind the scenes. Cheers for Peers rewards both the cheer receiver and the cheer giver. This quarter, we are recognizing all of our colleagues who have received cheers. Many of the individuals on the list below have received multiple cheers.

Amy Madzelonka	Christina Restrepo	Lexie Duvall	Tress Chastain
Andy Leibenguth	Cori Burns	Linda Skeel	Wendy Evans
Arika Steele	Dan McGuire	Michael Johnson	Ma Moua
Aurora Rummel-Lindig	David Goldberg	Nathan Bible	Yong Moua
Barak Nelson	Derek Graham	Nick Sundberg	Lauriane Philipeaux
Brendan Connors	Elaine Miller	Pete Salinas	Chris Lowry
Bret Marquardt	Samantha Stokey	Sara Mihailovich	Chelsea Reichard
Bryan Berndt	Carly Brown	Shawna Knudson	Stewart Fleming
Camille Poggi	Jerry Knox	Steve Erickson	Karl Thorne
AM/PM Department			



Get Your Free Transportation Planning Calendar

Register for our 2022 Edulog User Groups and we will email you with a free guide on how to create your own Transportation Planning Calendar.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Data Overview Report

As we push into summer, districts across the nation are looking towards getting their transportation geared up for the coming 2022-23 school year. Part of that task involves updating the transportation data in your system, which is critical for transportation managers to stay on top of. In addition to managing your routes effectively, accurate data is a necessity for things like GPS tracking and Parent-facing applications.

For transportation leadership, it's important to occasionally review where your data is currently at, and identify areas that might be worth addressing to avoid future headache. And it's important not only for districts about to undergo school startup, but for district seeing any potentially significant change to their transportation.

The Data Overview Report can be of assistance in this way, and is an innovative service from Edulog's Advisory Services Group. It is a specialized reporting tool that provides a quick look into a district's Edulog SQL data, summarizing the extent and complexity of the district's routing system, as well as identifying potential red flags in the data.

Student transportation is an incredibly complex system for school districts to manage, and ties together a wide array of geographical, student, and institutional data. The amount of information contained within a single school district can be immense, and familiarizing oneself with it can be a time-consuming process.

Even the most competent and experienced route managers can find themselves overwhelmed; having to balance day-to-day operations with the volume of data they are responsible for. Issues, errors, and missing entries can often go unnoticed by users until they accumulate and start causing problems down the road.

The Data Overview Report can help users of Edulog SQL by summarizing their data in an effective manner to the reader. It steps the reader through each major component of their transportation data, before diving headlong into identifying potential problems in the data itself. The tool is capable of handling districts both small and large, and when used correctly alongside Edulog expertise, it can provide deeper insight into how well a system is being managed, as well as providing a clear roadmap when things need to be corrected, added or removed.

For further questions about whether this report could be a helpful tool to you, or just to learn more about it, please contact your district's Account Manager.



IT'S ROLLOVER SEASON!

By Barak Nelson

Rollover season again? How time flies!

If you are using our new Athena product, your Client Service Manager will be guiding you through this process as part of the Athena Freshman Year process. If you're using one of our other products, last year at this time you may have had to use a specially modified rolivr.dat file to move students from programs used during the pandemic back to a more regular schedule. This version of the rolivr.dat may no longer be valid.

Rather than building a new version of rolivr.dat from scratch, consider looking for an older version of the file, possibly one that was last used in the spring of 2019. Check this file and make any changes for schools that were opened, closed, or had grades or programs added or removed between the last time it was used and now.

As always, we recommend making a backup and running the Rolovr utility in "temporary" mode (with the "Make changes permanent" box unchecked) first, and making sure there are no errors in the Rolovr.err file and that the school and grade changes previewed in the Rolovr.aud file look correct before running in permanent mode.

If you have a Client Service Manager, they will work with you to find the appropriate file, move into the correct location with the correct name, update it, and run the rollover utilities.

Otherwise, if you need help with this process, please contact the Product Support department by emailing support@edulog.com or calling 406-728-0893 x3146.



SHAWNA'S ASK ME ANYTHING

By Shawna Knudson

This quarter's question is: **"Do you have an Edulog tattoo?"** – The person who asked me the question had no ill intent, but I'm curious why I remained employed at Edulog for 30 years. As we know, it was fairly common practice for employees to get hired at an organization and retire from the same organization years later. We still see this in some professions, such as teachers and law enforcement; however, in the technology sphere, it is somewhat unusual, particularly in the 21st century!

When I started in 1992, I thought that I would stay for a year and then move on to law school. For personal reasons (related to marriage and children), my plans were altered. I found that I enjoyed the work I was doing at Edulog and I valued the idea of cutting spending to return

money to the classroom. The work also challenged me every day to learn something new.

When I first started, I had little to no experience with PC's and operating systems. My supervisor at the time handed me a book, "Running MS-DOS 5.0" and sat me down at a computer. He told me that there would be a test the next day. Honestly, my first thought was to run, but I love to read and learning is a passion, so I took a deep breath and dug in. I found the book to be well written and understandable. I didn't have a computer at home, but I did take the book home to read as much as I could.

What I didn't understand is that the test was not the next day, it was a test to see how I handled the challenge, how I navigated the unknown, whether or not I had the creativity and problem-solving to help myself. I guess I passed!

As you might expect, I didn't work with Edulog's founder and CEO directly right away, but when I did, I found that Dr. Hien Nguyen was brilliant and personable. Not only is he a keen mathematical

genius, but he also is a teacher. Still, to this day, my favorite meetings are when Dr. Nguyen puts on his professorial hat and educates the room.

Working at Edulog has also helped me navigate change. When I started, there was one client still running PTS-II, which was a version of Edulog without a map! From PTS-II to Athena Routing, we have seen the introduction of all the software that Edulog leads the industry in providing. Optimization, Enrollment projects, Boundary Planning, Routing, Telematics, and the list goes on. Edulog leads the industry as it relates to Change for a Purpose.

Edulog has supported me through major life changes, including the death of my father and a divorce. My loyalty and work ethic have kept me employed and I have learned something new every single day. I have worked with incredible people, some of which are still here and some of which are not. I learned something from everyone who has passed through the Edulog doors, either as a lesson or a blessing. Honestly, most

(Continued next page...)

experiences have been blessings!

So, when someone asks me if I have an Edulog tattoo, the answer is 'not yet', but wouldn't that be an awesome way to honor this experience? You have given me something to think about!



Visit us at www.edulog.com

Advisory Services

Giving school districts efficient solutions

Find big savings in your transportation budget by applying our business intelligence to your challenges.

Optimize your student and staff experience with changes to the bell schedule.

Reshape your school attendance boundaries with data-driven boundary scenarios and planning data.



Edulog is the original school bus routing software company. We have provided Routing and Planning software solutions to districts across North America since 1977. Our consultants have experience leading state and local school transportation operations and draw on a widely experienced staff to follow your project from inception through implementation.

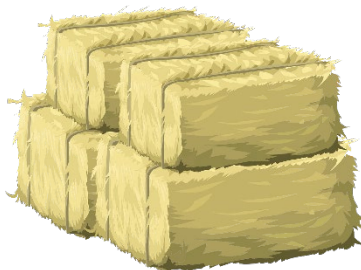


For more information, visit us at Edulog.com

WHAT DO HAY AND BARNS HAVE TO DO WITH SCHOOL START?

By Lam Nguyen-Bull

I'm always a little surprised when April and May roll around and I hear our sales team pushing our operations team for commitments on delivering new hardware and software "in time for school start."



We all like new things and we like fresh starts. I always loved starting new classes with a fresh set of notebooks and brand-new pens. But transportation software and hardware aren't really like new notebooks and new pens at all. You're giving yourself a very short period of time to make a dramatic change to fundamental ways of doing the most basic things, including how to absorb information and how to communicate it out.

It's not an impossible task and Edulog has seasoned staff ready to help you if your heart is set on this type of change path. But I wonder if we consider enough the very viable and practical option of using the tools you already have to get you through a critical part of the year (school start), and after that's over, *then* introducing a significant new change, giving you and your team a chance to absorb the new "stuff" (not just the tools, but the new habits and processes that will usually have to come with the new tools) before using them for a critical mission.

Using the tools you already have doesn't mean that you have to get off your continuous improvement program. It just

means that perhaps you change the timing of introducing significant changes to minimize adding risk and stress to a stressful time of year. Or it could mean that you use both your legacy system and your new

system in parallel to better understand how the new one will work differently from your old one and be very ready for the full transition *after* school starts.

Consider whether you have been getting everything you can out of the tools you already have. We all get into ruts and habits that feel efficient, but these ruts often mean we underutilize the tools we have at our disposal. We get so used to the tools we have that we don't really see them or their potential anymore. It can take a fresh eye to inject some excitement, novelty and understanding into the stuff that we already have. And it's also true that it's probably not efficient to use all the tools in your toolbox every day; there is a reason why the assembly line and stripping processes down to their simplest iterations has become such a mainstay of how we approach productivity.

True to form, I have a weightlifting analogy to share. The end of May capped off a 5-month competition training cycle. I competed at Masters Nationals in late April and then in a local meet in Tacoma in May. In late March, it became clear that I had some major technique issues to work on, issues that were going to

limit my overall potential. My perfectionist tendencies made me DESPERATE to try to fix these errors before Nationals. Two weeks before Nationals, I was struggling to execute legal lifts in part because I was so wrapped around the axle on what I wasn't doing right. My coach tried every way he could to break me out of the funk ("you'll be FINE," "we'll work on that AFTER Nationals!") "Rome wasn't built in a day!"). And then, the day before the competition, my outlook suddenly pivoted. It started as a complete mental breakdown but from that surrender came an acceptance - nothing significant was going to change or *could* change before I had to get out on the platform and make something happen.

All the hay that was going to be in the barn was in the barn, and the ONLY productive thing to do was to focus on how to use the hay I already

had in the barn and not on the stacks I'd left in the field. I stopped thinking about what I *couldn't* do, and focused on the things I knew I did decently, with my coach giving me cues along the way. I pulled off legal lifts, earned bronze across the board in my class, and missed qualifying for Worlds by a hair.

Now that that's over...the process of harvesting new hay with new tools starts NOW.

Do you need a coach to help you understand how best to use the hay you already have in the barn? We have a whole farmhouse full of coaches who can work with you to achieve a smooth school start while preparing for your new harvester for the next season.

AM/PM TOOL BOX

By Shawna Knudson

As many of you might know, Arika Steele and Shawna Knudson are new quilters. Some might say that it is a Covid skill, and they would be correct! We both are new to the craft and each of us learned many of our lessons the hard way: trial and error. But it wasn't the only way! We also networked with other quilters, sought out help and advice, and helped ourselves by watching videos and reading articles. We

have distinctly different learning styles, but at the end of the day, we are doing what works for us individually. Recently, we both completed quilts from the same pattern. You can see in the images that our 'Montana quilts' are very similar, but also unique in their own way. We were able to take our own goals and objectives and incorporate them with our creativity and the provided pattern to create something beautiful.





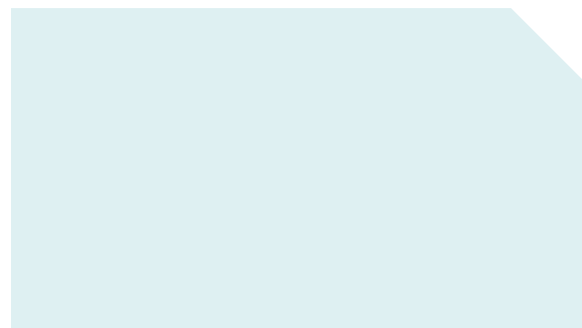
If you are still reading, by now you should be asking yourself, “what is the deal with these women and quilting and why should I care?” The answer is that quilting fits very well with people who identify as planners, organizers, and problem solver solvers. With this quarter’s newsletter’s focus of “What’s in your toolbox”, it is our pleasure to be part of the team that can be part of YOUR toolbox as we put these skills to work in our professional lives.

It is easy to understand the benefit of our client services department – they support your use of the various Edulog software packages. Our talented engineers toil behind the scenes to provide you with best-in-class software. Our front office staff work tirelessly to keep things going smoothly so we can provide uninterrupted client service. But what is the role of the Account Manager and the Project Manager?

Much like our quilts, our roles are somewhat similar, but have different focuses. Our Project Management staff work with our clients to execute specifically purchased software, hardware and services projects. We bring the “pattern” to the partnership, while you bring the creativity, specific goals and objectives and we create something both beautiful and useful.

For Account Managers, they focus on the bigger picture: the long-term health and satisfaction of your organization as you navigate ever changing times. Many times, this requires project management skills to break down your needs into consumable tasks that can be tracked, reported upon, and delivered in a timely fashion.

Each of these two departments, the requisite skills of planning, organizing and troubleshooting are combined with personality and resourcefulness to bring you a team of professionals who love to help you achieve your goals.



**Register for
Our Virtual
Workshop!**

[Click Here](#)

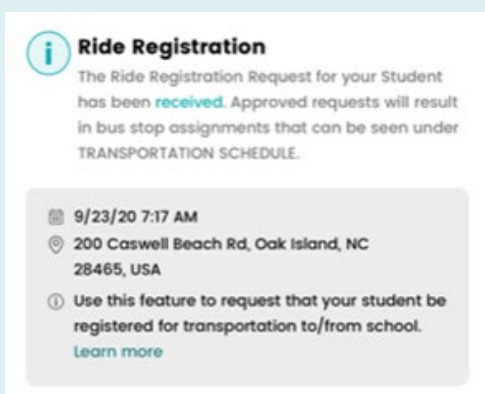
RIDE REGISTRATION: THE VALUE OF TRUE RIDERSHIP

By Andy Smith

One thing that we learned from the impact of COVID-19 and the national driver shortage: Every Seat is Precious. Transportation needs to know who plans to ride the bus. In keeping with the theme of this quarter's Edulogger, Ride Registration is a simple tool that helps you make the best possible use of the tools (buses) you already have.

Edulog can help you secure the actual ridership numbers needed to plan effective routes according to the latest allowable capacities. What is True Ridership? Simply put, it is an accurate and complete accounting of every student on the bus every day. With this information, schools are better able to:

- Monitor ridership to support contact tracing,
- Validate their passenger loads for state Medicaid reimbursement,
- Use ridership statistics to determine appropriate bus capacity, and
- Optimize routes for the safe, efficient, and effective transportation of students.



To reduce strain on your transportation team and resources, Edulog enables parents in your community to opt-in for the transportation they need using an

accessible app and our Ride Registration service. This streamlined communication helps to immediately identify school startup needs. You can make important decisions based on actual needs instead of on rider eligibility alone.

The process of Ride Registration eliminates cumbersome surveys and the managing of paper forms. There is no need for integration with your Student Information System (SIS) or a GPS/AVL platform. Our Advisory Services team will lead you through the data-gathering process and implementation of the app once parents download the app, registering for a ride takes just a few clicks. Parents confirm their address and click submit. From there, Transportation can approve or reject the request, retain notes or comments on the decision, and send parents in-app messages regarding the request. Parents will be notified via the app. *(Continued on page 13...)*



“The data from Ride Registration was imported directly into our Edulog Routing and Planning software. With limited capacity, new CDC Guidelines, and reduced ridership, Ride Registration helped us pinpoint exactly where our services were most needed and allowed us to run and maintain efficient routes with everything that is going on.”

- Avery Sponsler, Route Coordinator,
Agua Fria Union High School District,
Arizona

You can expect higher rates of engagement with Parent Portal by introducing the app to your community with the Ride Registration process.

We’re more than happy to give you a free demo of Ride Registration, answer your questions, and brainstorm with you how this service can benefit both your school district and your community.

[Click here to streamline your transportation communication](#) or email us at info@edulog.com.


For Edulog clients, Ride Registration is just one part of a safe, efficient, economical student transportation management system. Ride Registration is an ideal project with which to introduce Parent Portal to your community.

Parent Portal


Peace of mind for parents and caregivers

- Flexible app with options for school districts of any size - routing information not required.
- Able to integrate with non-Edulog routing systems.
- Deliver scheduled and planned stop information.
- Advanced messaging for direct communication between the Transportation Department and parents/caregivers.

POWERED BY
EDULOG



Visit [Edulog.com](https://www.edulog.com) to see how YOUR district benefits

Available on the App Store | 

[Click here to learn more about Parent Portal](#)

CASE STUDY FROM THE ADVISORY SERVICES GROUP

By Spencer Jenko

Edulog recently undertook a transportation study for a client in the Northern Rockies, which is located in a majority-suburban area with a relatively-high population density. As a result, the district requires over 70 buses to meet their service requirements on a typical school day.

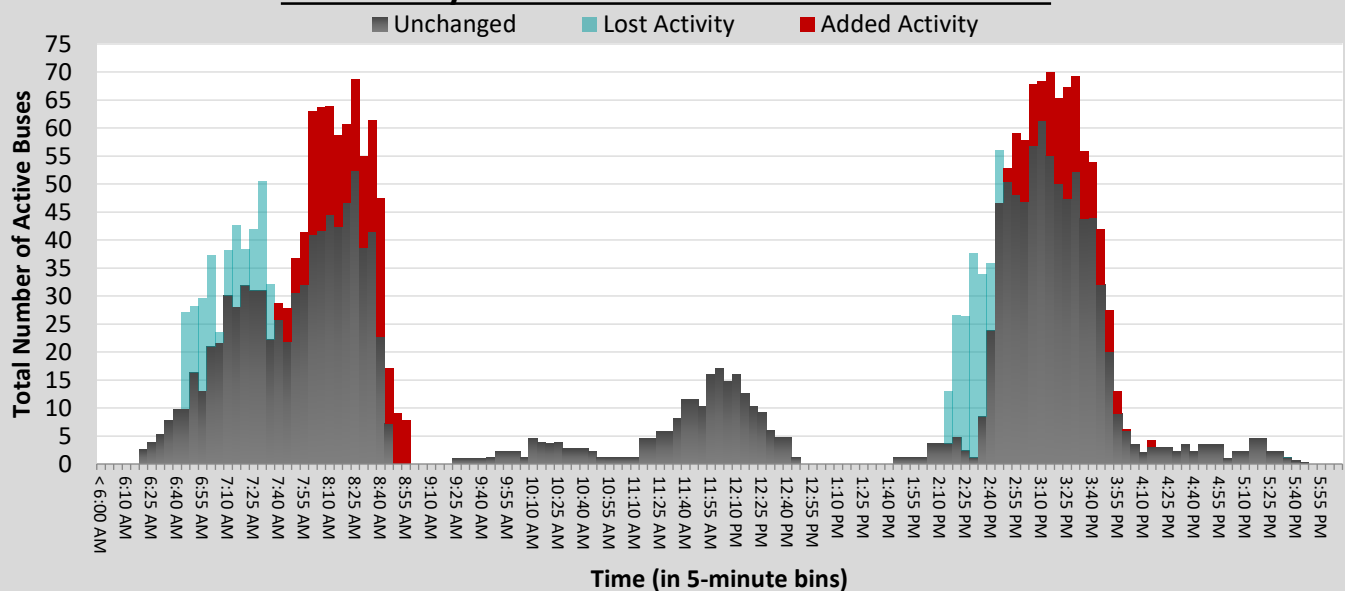
The district tasked Edulog to study the impact of starting 2 of their middle schools at a later time, with several proposed bell-times to consider. Both schools presently start their school day 20 minutes earlier than the rest of the middle schools at the district, which is creating challenges for transportation, students, and parents. If they could be started at a later time, it would not only create more consistency in the district's bus routing, but students at the 2 schools would benefit from a later starting time in the morning.

After studying several scenarios that had been proposed, Edulog was able to determine an optimal solution that did not increase the total number of bus routes at the district.

The Advisory Services Group (ASG) was able to identify a low-impact proposal for the district, utilizing tools such as the Bus Activity Chart (see below) to determine where the bell-time shifts would create the greatest impact. Despite projections that a later start time would increase the total number of required buses, changing the start time of several elementary schools by *only* 5-10 minutes allowed for this change to be accommodated *without* increasing routes.

While the collective experience of the ASG was responsible for conducting the study, it was the engagement of the school district itself that played a key role in finding an optimal solution. The expertise, and more importantly the communication of the district with Edulog, were vital in helping move the study forward as results came in. This teamwork allowed the district to make full use of the Advisory Services Group, resulting in a solution that provides them a way forward for starting their middle schools at a later (and fairer) time.

Bus Activity Chart: +20 minutes to Middle Schools



FIND THE WORD IN THE PUZZLE. WORDS CAN GO IN ANY DIRECTION. WORDS CAN SHARE LETTERS AS THEY CROSS OVER EACH OTHER.

BY CHELSEA REICHARD

S	Y	V	X	A	H	B	B	U	F	Z	O	B	S	G
I	Y	T	C	W	B	O	U	Y	A	G	E	F	U	T
M	T	C	O	S	O	P	H	G	M	Q	D	L	P	Z
P	D	Q	M	S	L	P	Y	B	I	X	U	W	P	G
L	Y	O	M	R	V	M	L	R	L	E	L	G	O	C
I	G	X	U	A	B	B	H	U	Y	Z	O	R	R	Q
F	T	Y	N	P	Z	H	S	A	G	Z	G	A	T	Y
Y	J	E	I	N	R	Z	Q	O	E	S	G	D	G	Y
U	D	A	T	U	X	U	V	A	L	U	E	U	L	J
Z	E	E	Y	K	N	T	W	R	O	U	R	A	L	Y
Y	R	A	A	D	V	I	C	E	S	Q	T	T	T	A
A	B	E	O	S	T	A	R	T	Z	Q	H	I	L	V
P	E	D	Z	T	Y	T	S	L	G	F	N	O	O	R
S	U	M	M	E	R	B	O	Q	H	P	Z	N	P	N
E	F	F	I	C	I	E	N	T	O	D	S	M	Y	M

Words

START
VALUE
ADVICE
FAMILY
SUMMER
SUPPORT
SIMPLIFY
SOLUTION
COMMUNITY
EDULOGGER
EFFICIENT

www.edulog.com

The Edulogger

info@edulog.com

A NEWSLETTER FOR CLIENTS

ARIKA STEELE, LAM NGUYEN-BULL, CHELSEA REICHARD, EDITORS

SPENCER JENKO, ILLUSTRATOR

ANDY SMITH, ARIKA STEELE, BARAK NELSON, CHELSEA REICHARD, ERIC FISCHL,

LAM NGUYEN-BULL, MATT O'LEARY, SHAWNA KNUDSON, SPENCER JENKO, CONTRIBUTORS