EDULOG

QUIET BEFORE THE STORM

EDULOGGER

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

IT'S ROLLOVER SEASON
WRITTEN 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 transition. If you're using one of our other products, last year at this time you may have had to use a specially modified rolovr.dat file to move students from summer programs to a more regular schedule. This version of the rolovr.dat may no longer be valid.

Rather than building a new version of rolovr.dat from scratch, consider looking for an older version of the file, possibly one that was used last year or the year before. 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 your Account Manager or Edulog Support for assistance.
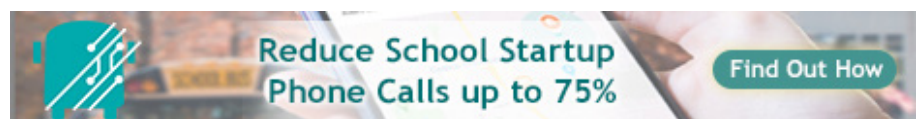
IF IT AIN'T BROKE...
WRITTEN BY LAM NGUYEN-BULL

When this newsletter hits your desk, you'll be well into prepping for next fall. As people who work in, for, and around schools, we have the good fortune of getting two fresh starts every year – one on January 1st, and the other sometime around when summer becomes fall. Since we get two bites at the fresh-start-apple, I'm going to suggest that we try something different (see how I didn't say "NEW"?).

January 1st often marks a time when we feel mentally equipped to start new projects, build new habits, or introduce change. But for all that school start marks the beginning of a new school year, maybe it's not the best time to be trying out new things if you aren't one of the students.

We should never stop thinking about continuous improvement, of course. But continuous improvement is mostly a series of incremental changes, made more exciting by the occasional step-change. And changes are often a response to something that is going wrong.

Now, what if we started thinking about change and continuous improvement from a completely different direction? First, let's talk about some numbers. According to the National Science Foundation, a person thinks around 50,000 thoughts a day. About 95% of them are repetitive and 80% of them are negative. According to accepted psychology, the basic reason for this relates to our drive to make things better – we play and re-play negative thoughts (which are usually related to negative experiences) as part of a process of thought experimentation and practice. But fixing what's "wrong" is not the only way to improve things.

What if we worked on identifying what is going RIGHT and doing what we can to make more space for what is going right? What is the point, you may ask, of identifying what's going right? That stuff is already working. We have limited time and need to fix what's not right.

If we lived in a one-dimensional robot world, where all we had to worry about was whether things were right or wrong, then perhaps it would be unproductive to look at what's going right. But the world we live in is wonderfully messy and chaotic, and filled with people. People, though apparently wired to focus on the negative, do not flourish in a negative environment. Praise and recognition release dopamine. So, to keep ourselves and our colleagues happier, we have to recognize what's going right and give credit where credit is due.

Plus, if we forget to account for what is already going right, changes we make could cause unintentional detriment and make those right things go wrong. Athletes know this! As a weightlifter, I've learned the hard way that "fixing" one technical fault can break or at least disrupt many other technical elements that were working just fine!

It is hard to assess a situation, especially one that we live in and are a part of. But as hard as it is to spot the pain points, it can be even harder to see what's working. The reality is that most of us exist in a world where we have too much to do, so if something doesn't need attention – if it ain't broken – ain't nobody going to be paying attention to it, much less examining it. We have fires to put out!

IF IT AIN'T BROKE...
CONTINUED

Being able to identify what's going right is rarely something we can do on a spur-of-the-moment basis. Rather, what's going right is often in a steady state (unless it's a successfully executed firefighting mission). One way to identify what's going right is by maintaining data about your operations and identifying some performance metrics that are meaningful to you and your stakeholders. We're often so distracted by acute issues that we forget that for every late-to-school bus, there might have been two hundred that arrived on time. That doesn't mean we shouldn't figure out the root cause of the late bus, but we should also celebrate and recognize that two hundred buses delivered their kids safely and on time!

Another way to identify what's going right is to ask people! Ask your team, your colleagues, your stakeholders. This approach gets you valuable feedback and involves others in the process of continuous improvement. Modeling that you know how to ask for help and include others in important conversations is a great way to teach others about how to be a good leader.

A third method, which is a combination of these first two ways, is to ask for help from the Edulog Advisory Services team! We know how hard it is to maintain and review data to look for patterns if your daily task list is filled with acute items. We all know that even (maybe especially) the best athletes have coaches.

We have several services aimed specifically at helping districts identify patterns in their data that, yes, identify what needs attention but which also highlight what's going right. We can also, of course, be a sounding board for testing ideas about how to do more of what's working. For those of you who subscribe to enhanced services, some of these services may be available to you without additional fees! If you are interested in exploring the possibilities, reach out to your Account Manager.

ROUTING
Optimization and Efficiency

BELL TIMES
Studies and Optimization

CONTRACTS
Auditing and Analysis

PLANNING
Demographics and Redistricting

OPERATIONS
Policies and Metrics

SUPPORTING DRIVERS WITH EDULOG DRIVER PORTAL
WRITTEN BY EDULOG STAFF

Transportation Departments are responsible for much more than the safe and efficient transport of students to and from school - district stakeholders and parents also expect delivery of accurate and timely data. Edulog has a solution for distributing important information as well as additional support for school bus drivers. With our state-of-the-art tablet and applications, drivers can safely transport students to and from school.

Digital Route Sheets: Driver Portal allows both visual and audio turn-by-turn directions for driver ease, compliance with state DOT policies, and reduction in errors for accurate route management.

Driver Time and Attendance: You're able to track and report different pay rates for multiple jobs (when your drivers must put on a different hat, the correct code can be assigned). Multiple people can log in on the tablet at the same time, including drivers, aides, and monitors. Integration with a GPS platform allows you to view driving patterns so that you can identify which drivers are meeting their goals, and which need extra attention.

Real-Time Substitutions: Managing substitutions in real-time only takes a few clicks. Once a driver has logged in, they can select the route and run for which they are responsible, including non-planned substitutions. Once a run is selected, the digital route sheet contains an interactive map and specific turn-by-turn directions. For districts that offer parent bus tracking apps, this real-time substitution provides accurate reporting and communication so that parents are getting the correct information.

Accurate Student Ridership Data: Tablets with Student Ridership can help drivers ensure that the right students get on and off the right bus at the right stop. In the event of an ill student, driver, or bus aide, schools can easily identify all those that may have been exposed with accurate Manifest and Ridership Reports. Further integration with parent bus tracking apps makes it easier than ever to communicate information like this directly to parents. By providing school bus drivers with the support tools they need, Transportation can guarantee accountability and streamlined communication.

Edulog Driver Portal provides digital route sheets with audio and visual directions, student ridership management, and driver time and attendance with an easy-to-use interface. With these important support tools in place, your district and drivers can be better prepared to meet the challenges of the next crisis. Talk to us today to see how your district benefits from our Driver Portal solution.
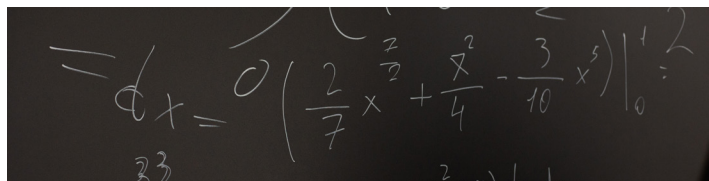
CORY EMLEN'S MATH JOKES

- Friends don't let friends derive drunk.
- Y=mx+b: that's where I draw the line
- I see you have graph paper. You must be plotting something.

IDENTIFYING A WISH LIST FOR TRAINING
WRITTEN BY LEXIE DUVALL

As we look forward to the new school year, meeting your transportation goals is important and at the forefront of our duties. Once all the dust has settled and you have a moment to breathe, it is important to think ahead to your training needs. It is a time to take stock of what is working, what isn't working, and what needs to change. Think about the wants and needs of the district, the department, and your employees and start to set short-term and long-term goals for what would make you stronger.

Your department's experience should be the determining factor in setting your training goals. Are you and your coworkers proficient in using Edulog products and is it time to take the department to the next level? Is everyone overwhelmed and stressed at the magnitude of work they must perform? What would help to minimize the levels of tension in the department? Would more training and improving skills be a contributing factor in helping to increase employee job satisfaction, and overall morale?

Identifying training demands means that we ask questions. Lots of questions. Do your employees need to refresh their overall general skills? Due to the ever-changing department environment, do they need to increase a set of specialized skills? Is your department short-staffed and would cross training benefit your blended team? Is your department going to experience some turnover in the coming months and will training be part of the new employee onboarding?

Once you have determined your needs, it is time to sit down with your leadership and review the course of action you have outlined and determine your next move. Getting their buy-in and support will help when moving through any budgeting process. Then it is important to set goals and timelines for a training program.

Edulog has a variety of options available to help meet your training goals.

Edulog University is a technology-based learning platform that allows for self-paced instruction. Departments that have to consider time management as well budgetary restraints benefit from this option. It contains basic overall courses for onboarding new employees or can be used as a post training reinforcement. It will also help in cross-training employees to strengthen the department overall.

Our online instructor-led training is developed to increase knowledge, skill base, and confidence. This option allows for real world applications, not just general overviews. It can be adapted to improve overall areas of development in addition to improving specialized skill sets. This option allows for more in-depth and engaging training for your team.
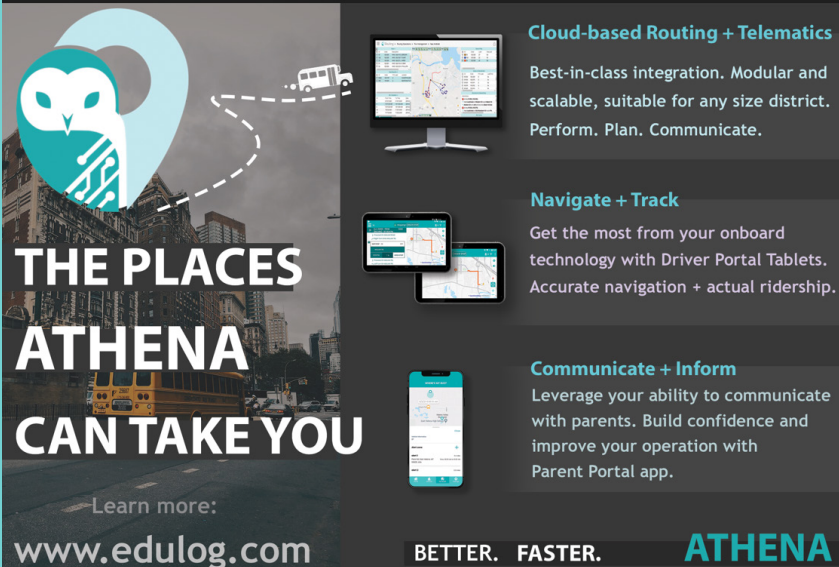
IDENTIFYING A WISH LIST FOR TRAINING
CONTINUED

The Virtual Learning Academy is another instructor-led training in the form of an online classroom environment. This allows for instructor engagement as well as open discussion with peers. The Virtual Learning Academy has been set up to include all levels of employee experience.

Our online User Group is a facilitated discussion with other attending districts. This allows for collaboration and conversation regarding other districts' experiences. This is a great way to network with other transportation departments throughout the country.

Edulog also offers in-person, classroom-based instructor-led training. There are all levels of training and can include personal coaching and mentoring. Each class is tailor-made for your district's specific training needs.

Training helps to develop employees, departments, and districts, and is a powerful employee retention tool. Formulating training goals and implementing training programs, shows an employee that the district is invested in their future. It is important to recognize that training in the workforce is valuable. It engages your workers, refreshes their knowledge, and helps to close any skill gaps.

For specific information and pricing please contact your Account Manager. We can discuss district and employee needs, training options, and set up a timeline and help you achieve your desired goals.

ASK ME ANYTHING
WRITTEN BY SHAWNA KNUDSON

How have you surrounded yourself with such a strong team?

This is a great question and one that I have spent a great deal of time considering. In the end, I have identified several qualities that I evaluate before making an offer to a prospective employee. Through this process, I have found the balance I am looking for in my team. Each member of the Project Management Office (PMO) must have an insatiable curiosity. They feed their intellectual growth, they are willing to delve deep into subject matter, and will challenge assumptions. I find that I don't have to ask them to learn any piece of our software or any industry topic, one or more of them has already started investigating and asking questions.

Their curiosity also leads to my next quality: challenging the status quo. Multiple times a day, I find myself enmeshed in conversations about finding a better way or a different approach. These conversations will focus on saving time, saving money, better client experiences, faster deployments, software improvements, or even simply better cooperation with other departments. One of the guiding principles of the Edulog PMO is continuous improvement. With ever-changing technology, a more diverse work force, and competing needs among our clients we must be agile!

To be agile, each person must also be a problem solver. I am always looking for people who can solve complex problems with ease and creativity.

They must be able to identify the problem, break the issues into manageable tasks and then have the organization and leadership to pull everyone together to solve it!

This requires that they have an analytical mind; their brain must be wired to dissect components, but this only works if they are able to see the big picture. It may seem counterintuitive, but if you can't see how changes to the individual components will change the overall situation, you are doomed to make mistakes that will have adverse consequences.

My final must-have quality is intellectual humility. Anyone that works in the PMO must be able to recognize their limits, share their mistakes, and be willing to learn from others. We are a team, each of us will drop what we are doing to lend a hand to someone with a deadline that must be met. We have daily meetings and help each other work through challenges or questions. Each of us takes an active role in helping new members get oriented to this wild and fun profession of project management.

It has taken time for me to identify the correct qualifications for working in the PMO and even longer to find these wonderful team members, but let me tell you, it is totally worth it at the end of the day.

SUMMER'S HEAT IS BEING FELT WITH EMPTY DRIVER SEATS.
WRITTEN BY SPENCER JENKO

As school districts across the U.S. shift into the summer season, transportation leaders are increasingly focusing their efforts on tackling a major ongoing issue: driver shortages. And while driver shortages are a familiar challenge to the transportation and logistics industry, the trend has grown increasingly worrisome in recent years. A quick online search continues to turn up headlines from local news outlets with a familiar theme: 30 drivers short at an Alabama district, 200 drivers short at a Florida district, 95 drivers short at a district in Maryland...the list goes on. To say that school transportation has had it rough in recent years is an understatement!

First, the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 shut down wide swaths of the U.S. and upended existing school transportation systems. Furloughs and restrictions that resulted from this came as another blow for school districts and the drivers they employed. Many of them either transitioned to a different job, or left the industry altogether, adding to the struggle of hiring/retaining enough drivers to meet transportation needs. In fact, prior to the pandemic, between 28-47% of districts surveyed faced driver shortage issues depending upon the size of the fleet. Subsequent surveys done after the pandemic put that number as high as 78% of districts that are still struggling with staffing issues.

Many had hoped these trends would abate over time, but the drumbeat of new articles continues to show evidence to the contrary. Competition for qualified drivers remains fierce in a tightened labor market, and private companies are outperforming school districts when it comes to pay rates, time management, and additional benefits like health insurance. Some districts have responded by significantly raising wages and expanding health benefits for drivers, but sadly this option is not available for many transportation leaders across the U.S. And it still might not be enough to recruit enough drivers, especially for a job position that struggles with being viewed in a positive light. Many transportation leaders have simply accepted the new environment they operate in: the driver shortages are here to stay. So where does pupil transportation go from here?

Looking for Solutions

When it comes to dealing with driver shortages, Edulog's Advisory Service group is able and willing to help your district out. We can:

- Conduct efficiency assessments of your district's transportation to determine where the major constraints and challenges to transportation are.
- Perform transportation studies that optimize your current stops into runs and routes that simulate the most efficient way to operate your current bus fleet.
- Identify opportunities for improvement that reduce your total fleet size, from minor changes to radical and creative ideas.

Start your Conversation Now. Click here.

STAFF UPDATES
WRITTEN BY JASMINE BROWN

This quarter, Edulog has been very thankful to bring in a whole host of summer interns from the University of Montana here in Missoula, MT. We are proud to announce that our interns have all accepted part-time positions as they continue their education this fall. In addition, we are excited to introduce our new hires and team members who have changed positions and been promoted Let's give a big hand to all our new stars at Edulog.

Starting off the wave is **Shontelle Talks Different.** Shontelle is joining our Client Services Support Team as a Support Analyst. Her previous work experience includes working with the Fort Belknap Tribal Housing Authority and Head Start. We're excited to see Shontelle apply her experience and education to help grow our business and to serve our clients' software support needs. Shontelle recently graduated from the University of Montana, read more about her accomplishments on .

SHONTELLE TALKS DIFFERENT

Another intern joining our Client Services Support Team as a Support Analyst is **Jesse Seeley**. Jesse is a graduate of Sentinel High School in Missoula and is currently pursuing a degree in Management Information Systems from the University of Montana. His studies include developing a Customer Resource Management solution in our Customer Relationship Management platform and learning our various software applications. Jesse was born and raised in Montana and loves everything to do with the outdoors, summer, and winter.

JESSE SEELEY

We also welcome **Billy Boone** as an intern in the Client Services Support Team. Billy is a Computer Science/Economics major at the University of Montana. In his free time, he enjoys engaging in finance, playing basketball, and going to the gym. Billy is looking forward to the opportunity to learn from everyone at Edulog.

BILLY BOONE

Continuing the growth within the Client Services Support Team is intern **Connor Somnis.** Connor will be learning various aspects of our Athena software and will also be responsible for supporting our SQL clients' school startup software needs. Connor grew up in northern Minnesota, where he played football, hockey and baseball. After high school he attended college in St. Paul for two years at Hamline University then moved out to Missoula to finish his remaining two years. While at the University of Montana he switched majors from Management to MIS (Management Information Systems). Some things he enjoys are playing hockey, golfing, hiking, mountain biking, and skiing.

CONNOR SOMNIS

The Client Services Support Team also welcomes intern **Nathan Gardner**. Nathan is currently studying computer science with a software engineering concentration at the University of Montana and is very excited for the opportunity to apply his skills in a professional environment. Two of his favorite hobbies are skiing in the winter and golfing in the summer. Nathan also loves to fly fish, and he just started playing hockey this spring. He is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Edulog team and looks forward to getting to know everyone better!

NATHAN GARDNER

Ending the hire-a-thon of summer interns is **Bailey Eggebrecht** who has joined the Client Services Support Team. Bailey is currently studying computer science with a software engineering concentration at the University of Montana and is very excited for the opportunity to apply her skills in a professional environment. One of her favorite pastimes outside of work is playing video games. She particularly enjoys open-world games like Red Dead Redemption 2 and Stardew Valley. When she is not gaming, she enjoys cooking or crafting. Oil paint is her favorite medium, but she also enjoys watercolors and making clay earrings that look like food.

BAILEY EGGEBRECHT

Not only did we get new interns, but we also gained a new GPS Project Manager: **Devon Meimerstorf**. Hailing originally from California, Devon is a Missoula resident of the past 3 years. Having previously worked in customer service and regional distribution, we think they will be a natural fit in our GPS Hardware Team, and within Edulog. We're excited to see Devon grow as the newest member of our team, learn about our products, and help shape the direction of our newest features!

DEVON MEIMERSTORF

Speaking of GPS additions, our GPS Hardware team welcomes our very own Hardware Coordinator, **Johanna Arnold**. For the past few years, she has diligently helped coordinate our hardware purchases, track client shipments, and negotiate with vendors as a member of the administrative & front office staff. Johanna has worked at Edulog for 7 years now and her successes have made her an invaluable part of our project deployments and our overall operations. The GPS Hardware team is very excited to work hand-in-hand with her as we continue to advance our GPS suite.

JOHANNA ARNOLD
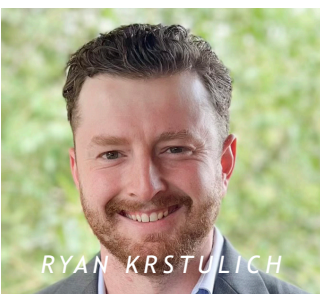
Our Sales Team continues to grow with the addition of **Ryan Krstulich.** Ryan is a native Montanan with a degree in chemical engineering from Montana State University. Like so many of us at Edulog, he loves everything to do with the outdoors: hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, skiing—and golfing! After his graduation in 2020, Ryan returned to Missoula from Bozeman and worked as a bartender downtown— great preparation for learning how to understand and meet customers' wants, needs, expectations, and budgets.

RYAN KRSTULICH

Additionally joining the sales team is **Jess Wyatt** who came on as a Sales Coordinator. Jess was born and raised in Washington State, but her heart has always been in Montana. She is working on her AA in marketing and has a background in finance and bridal sales. Like so many of us at Edulog, she loves the outdoors: mountaineering, snowboarding, and traveling! Jess has two children, a daughter, Roslyn, who is 7 and a son, Wesley, who is 4. We are excited to have Jess on our team!

JESS WYATT

DANIELLE FARMER

Our Project Management team saw growth this quarter with the addition of **Danielle Farmer**. Danielle will be a summer Project Manager Coordinator, as her school year is filled with being a second-grade teacher! Danielle is full of energy, has a great sense of humor, and we are very excited to watch her flourish in this role.

Not only do we celebrate growth in numbers, but we also like to celebrate growth in career. We would like to congratulate **Tyler Simonich** as he transitions into his new role as the Athena Service Level Member (SLM) Team Lead. Tyler is hitting the ground running and will likely be reaching out to many of you to discuss your experiences with Athena deployments as he works to streamline and improve our Athena deployment processes and increase Athena adoption. Read more about him in our Employee Spotlight Article on **Page 14.**


TYLER SIMONICH
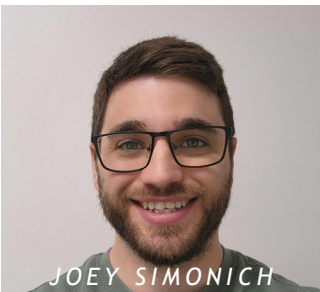
JOEY SIMONICH

As we continue to grow our Athena suite, we add **Joey Simonich** to the Athena Service Level Management Team. He is joining the team under the guidance of Tyler Simonich (yep, brothers) and we are excited to welcome him back to the Edulog family. Joey previously worked in the support department several years ago. Upon his return, he hit the ground running and we are excited to see him thrive in this new role.

We would like to congratulate **Shontelle Talks Different** on her graduation from the University of Montana, with a Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, Major: Management & Entrepreneurship. She started with Edulog part-time as an intern while she finished school, and has joined us full-time following graduation. Shontelle has been a valuable addition to the Client Services Department. Her knowledge and contributions have steadily increased over the past months as she has learned how to support our clients with the many facets of our products.

SHONTELLE TALKS DIFFERENT

We are excited to see Shontelle continue to learn more about the various Edulog products, including the various Athena offerings, and grow her experience and education to make continued contributions to our success in the school bus transportation world.
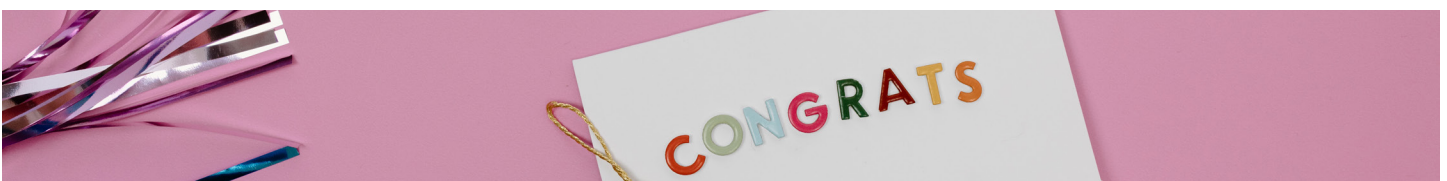
PENDER COUNTY SCHOOLS, NC - A RECENT CASE STUDY FROM THE ADVISORY SERVICES GROUP.
WRITTEN BY SPENCER JENKO

Pender County Schools (PCS) in North Carolina recently tasked Edulog's Advisory Services Group to undertake a detailed analysis of their current bell-time structure for their public schools, followed by a simulation of their routing data utilizing Edulog's optimization tools.

The primary goal of this study was to evaluate the feasibility of implementing a county-wide 3-tiered bell-time structure that did not increase overall route totals. Bell-times at PCS are currently organized into a 2-tiered structure, which has proven an effective model over successive years but is now being re-evaluated for the long-term future. Secondary goals of the study included reducing congestion on routes operating in their southeastern costal area, and to identify opportunities for increasing their general transportation efficiency.

To accomplish this, Edulog engaged in a lengthy period of study, analyzing the various aspects of PCS's transportation model, as well as the geographic and demographic layout that buses operate in. Upon completion of this phase, Edulog then conducted a bell-time optimization of the public school bell-times to create a new set of bell-times that would be an improvement over the present structure.

A stark difference in the geographic and demographic compositions between the East and West regions played out throughout the study. This proved to be a challenge when creating runs and routes, which had to account for these challenging factors. Three, in particular, played a role during Run, Route, and Bell-time optimizations:

1. Large & Complex Landscape   2. Limited Road Infrastructure   3. Population Growth

All of these factors combined present a challenging landscape for the PCS transportation department to operate in. When these aspects are taken into account with the limited resources available, we conclude that the district operates at a relatively efficient level of transportation. The use of a 2-tiered system in balance with the 93 buses it has available maximizes the use of the fleet while meeting current transportation needs across the district.

Both scenarios generated by the Advisory Services Group showed that PCS could implement a 3-tier bell-time structure that did not increase the total number of buses required to meet current service needs. But the more significant discovery was that while a 3-tiered system would decrease the total number of drivers in the Eastern side of the county, the Western side struggled to avoid an increase in drivers to continue meeting needs.

PENDER COUNTY SCHOOLS, NC - A RECENT CASE STUDY FROM THE ADVISORY SERVICES GROUP.
CONTINUED

Runs that service schools in the western part of PCS have on-average 34% longer run times and travel 46% further, while managing to carry 26% fewer students when compared to runs servicing a school in the Eastern part. Run averages are compared in the table below, with runs servicing the Western schools summarized alongside their Eastern counterparts:

Run Summary Statistic	East	West	Difference
Average Assigned Load	53.9 stu.	39.4 stu.	-14.2 stu.
Average Loaded Mileage	15.6 mi.	28.5 mi.	+12.9 mi.
Average Travel Time	40 min.	61 min.	+21 min.

Regardless of the effort put forth by Edulog during successive optimizations, these differences were not able to be overcome, and are therefore the result of inherent conditions the district must operate in.

After presenting results to transportation leaders at PCS and discussing the results that were generated over the course of the study, it was recommended that while the district could feasibly implement a 3-tiered structure across the entire county, the most efficient approach for transportation would be to adopt a hybrid model- one that has a 3-tiered structure for the eastern side and a 2-tiered one for the western side. This approach is already used by Union County schools, a neighboring county in North Carolina that has seen success operating bell-times in this fashion. And it is a county with many similarities to PCS, the most crucial being that one part of the district is densely populated while the other is more rural and more sparsely populated.

Adopting the hybrid approach requires the fewest drivers and would allow for a more-efficient transportation system at PCS. With Edulog's help. near when this newsletter is going to press, Pender's school board announced a series of bell-time changes to their eastern side schools adopting a 3-tiered system, while the western side schools would remain largely unchanged. This decision, made with the help of data-driven study results, will allow Pender County Schools to continue operating its bus fleet in an efficient manner while playing its vital role in facilitating public education.

TYLER SIMONICH

Favorite Food: Pork and/or Steak Burritos.

Favorite Color: Blue.

Dream Vacation: A month-long tour of Japan. I would like to see and experience all that Tokyo has to offer to an avid gamer like me. While there, Nintendo World would be one of my prime destinations. Also, growing up I had a major interest in samurai and the rich culture of that Japanese era.

Favorite Quote: Funny quote "I didn't hear no bell" -Randy Marsh and Inspirational Quote "Our failures don't define us; it's how we rise after we fall that defines us. -Brad Turnbull.

What is something unique about you that few people are aware of: I have been a Dungeon Master "DM" for a rotating group of D&D players for the last 6+ years.

If you could compete in the Olympics, which sport would you choose: Wrestling for Summer and Curling for Winter.

Can you play any instruments? If so, which one(s): I played Trumpet and Clarinet in Elementary/Middle School. I then switched to choir from 8th to 12th grade. I attempted to learn drums at one point but couldn't put the time and effort into it like I had hoped. Vocals were the only instrument that I felt competent at, at least in a group choir setting.

What are two things on your bucket list: Visit Japan and help produce my own video game.

Do you have any pets?: No, my wife and kids have pet allergies.

**Advice (to clients or co-workers):** Never stop moving forward.

If you could pick up a new skill in an instant, what would it be: Coding. It would help in my professional and personal life. I have always wanted to create a video game of my own.

If you had to delete all but 2 apps from your phone, which 2 would you keep: Twitter and Spotify.

How would you describe your job at Edulog: I am a Project Manager who helps coordinate with multiple internal and external teams to release a varying number of hardware and software products to our clients. These project timelines can range from weeks to years, depending on the target dates for our clients.

Favorite Edulog product or favorite part of working here: Favorite product, Parent Portal. I believe the app is very useful and can dramatically reduce the calls for our clients if implemented properly. My favorite part of working here, the team that I work with are hilarious and hard working.

Edulog would like to recognize Tyler Simonich, a valued member of Edulog since 2015. Tyler has recently transitioned to the role of Athena SLM Team Lead in the SLM group. In this new role, Tyler will be managing the process of transitioning clients from Athena Build and Validation to establishing Athena as the client's routing system of record. Previously, Tyler had been a member of the Project Management Office. He was instrumental in the development of our parent apps and is also very skilled at helping our clients make the best use of the software. Tyler's positive attitude is infectious, and we are excited for this next phase in his Edulog career! Tyler is a Montana native, born in Billings, but has resided in Missoula since he was 2 years old. In his free time, Tyler enjoys being a dad, gaming, watching sports, and playing basketball.
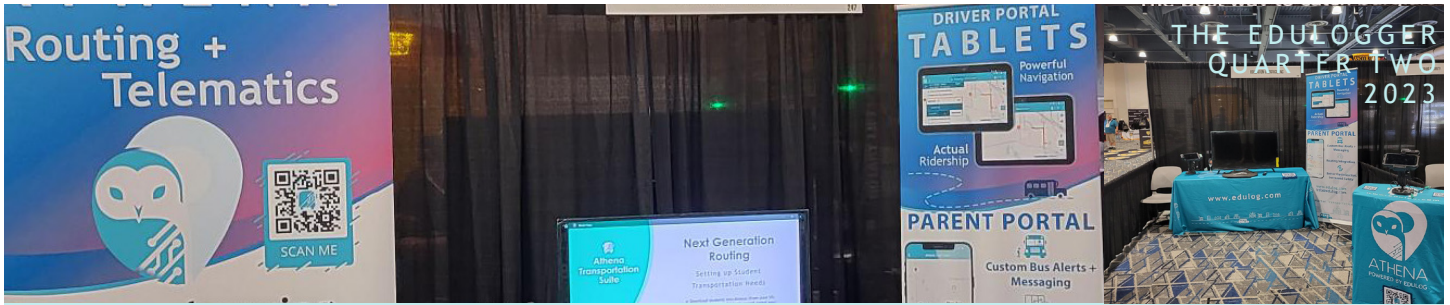
TRADESHOWS
WRITTEN BY PETE SALINAS

We have attended several shows this year already: TXASBO in San Antonio Texas, GCAPT in Houston Texas, CASTO and CASBO in CA, WVASBO in West Virginia and LASTO in Louisiana. Each tradeshow being entertaining and different from the last.

I feel the most energized for a show when school district teams arrive at the host hotel. The meet and greet period before a show is always fun because you get to see the friends you have made over the years and hugs/kisses flow throughout the industry. We are not just a tech company; we are a people company.

At each conference, Edulog was a generous sponsor of events and included valuable client interactions. We stand by our products, support, and service creating meaningful relationships with those that we serve. Having the ability to show the "proof in the pudding" so to speak, gave us the ability to gain new clients at each conference this year. We are excited for the new business while maintaining our dedication to new and returning customers.

My favorite products to discuss are Parent Portal and GPS with route data. Having the tools to be able to compare your plan versus what is actually happening on the road provides a lot of insight to parents, transportation departments, and districts. This is a valuable tool that really speaks for itself.

Although I would prefer to see everyone individually, there isn't enough time in the calendar year to do so; the tradeshows are second best and always provide great opportunities to catch up with known faces and meet new ones.

Check out page 16 for some pictures from this quarter's tradeshows! Contact us for more sales information, here!

RECIPE: FIRE CRACKERS
WRITTEN BY SARAH HUTCHERSON

Ingredients:

1-11oz box Mini Saltine crackers.
1-11oz box Mini Club crackers.
1-9oz bag Great Value Soup & Oyster crackers (small sized).
1-9oz bag Premium Soup & Oyster crackers (larger sized).
1-21oz box Family Size Cheez-It Original crackers.

If you choose to use all 5 packages of crackers:

2 C. Canola Oil (or any mild oil of your choice).
5 Tbs. Ranch Seasoning – About 5 packets (I make this a LOT, so I buy the jar of seasoning).
3 Tbs. Garlic Powder.
3 Tbs. Red Pepper Flakes (Omit for non-spicy, kid friendly).

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 250* F. Combine all your seasonings in a bowl & set aside.
2. In a HUGE bowl or a brown paper bag combine all the crackers & mix well.
3. Pour the oil over the crackers & mix to thoroughly coat the crackers.
   • Tip: if using brown bags, dump coated crackers into a clean bag so the seasoning doesn't stick to the bag.
4. Sprinkle about ½ the bowl of seasoning onto the oily crackers and mix.
5. Repeat with the remaining seasoning mix.
6. On a cookie sheet, spread an even layer of seasoned crackers – there will be enough for 3 large standard cookie sheets.
7. Bake for 30 minutes – stirring in 10-minute increments.
8. Pour into a bowl to cool while you bake the rest of the crackers.
9. When the bowl of crackers is cool enough, I take this opportunity to divvy it into quart-sized Ziploc bags. (I have to hide about ½ of the entire batch otherwise it's all gone by weeks end!!).

(Be creative! You can use Goldfish or pretzel squares instead of another cracker; or even, in addition to the mix just be sure to adjust your oil & seasoning measurements if you add to the mix! ENJOY!!)

Word Search

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

Athena	Drivers	Rackers
Summer	Bus	Tradeshows
Vacation	North Carolina	Broke
Routing	Road	Rollover

THE EDULOGGER
QUARTER TWO
2023

THE EDULOGGER
A NEWSLETTER FOR CLIENTS

Editors:
Jasmine Brown
Arika Steele
Chelsea Reichard
Lam Nguyen-Bull

Contributors:	
Jasmine Brown	Lexie Duvall
Arika Steele	Shawna Knudson
Chelsea Reichard	Sarah Hutcherson
Lam Nguyen-Bull	Cory Emlen
Spencer Jenko	Pete Salinas
Barak Nelson	Cori Burns

To find out more about our host of products and services, find us online at www.edulog.com

or email us at info@edulog.com.

You can even check us out on Facebook -

Smarter Transportation.