

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS



EDULLOGER



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Edulog Foodbank Volunteering

Ask Me Anything

Staff Updates

Exciting Training and Networking Opportunities...

Employee Spotlight

Redefining Success In School Transportation...

NPS Survey Request

School Startup

Recipe: Crockpot Freezer Meals

Sudoku

Contact Us

EDULLOG FOODBANK VOLUNTEERING

WRITTEN BY SAMANTHA STOKEY & CORI BURNS

Many of us volunteer in different ways for organizations we are involved with or to help people we care about. I have coached my daughter's YMCA soccer team, chaperoned my son's field trips, and run a station at every Field Day for my kids' school. How often do we volunteer? According to the US Census Bureau, Montana is 9th in the country for formal volunteering with 31.1% of the population participating. Edulog decided that we wanted to join in.

Once a month, the Missoula Food Bank gets 100 volunteers together to make up EmPower Packs. These packs are given out at 20 different meal sites throughout the county to children who experience chronic hunger over the weekends. Each pack includes 2 breakfasts, 3-4 entrees, snacks, fruit and milk. Food Bank volunteers put the non-perishable items in bags and pack them into boxes to be delivered. The administrators at the local sites add the fruit and milk right before handing them out on Fridays before children go home for the weekend.

Edulog Foodbank Volunteering continued on page 2.



Ready to harness that New Year energy and make a change?
Interested in data to see how far you've come?

[Click here to reach out to our Advisory Services Team](#)

On Friday, January 17th, several of our employees and their family members came out on a cold night after work to help. We arranged ourselves in 8 different packing assembly lines with a couple of re-stockers, and a few pallet jack drivers. I was positioned as a re-stocker. I opened boxes and removed plastic wrap from the items on pallets. When an assembly line was running low on an item, they would call it out and a re-stocker would bring it over to that assembly line. Let me tell you, that was a full-time work-out for the 2 hours we were there. My 9-year-old daughter came along with me. She was at the end of one of the assembly lines, with our CEO Sam Bull at the start. She tied off the bags when they were complete, put 6 bags in each box and made sure the pallets were not stacked more than 8 boxes high. Overall that night, the group put together 5000 EmPower packs to help hungry local kids.

It was tiring after a full day at work, but I felt ten feet tall by the time we were done. We were giving back to the community, while also getting to know our Edulog family better as well. There were lots of smiles and conversations beyond school bus routing. I learned that Arika and her husband like snowboarding, but J.D. prefers skiing, and Tyler has 4 kids (who get tired quickly just like mine).

At the end of the night, on the way to our car, my daughter asked me if we could do that again next Friday. She thought it was a fun night and liked meeting some of the work teammates she hears me talk about.

There are children in her class who receive EmPower packs every Friday. She loved being a part of helping to provide them for classmates in need. She caught the volunteer bug, and we are both looking forward to helping again next month.

As we engage in future volunteer events, I hope to see more of my Edulog co-workers participate, and to get the opportunity to know their family members as well. The more we do together, both at and outside of work, the more efficiently we will work as a team to build a better Edulog.

Following are a few quotes from other Edulog team members who participated:

“I thought the food bank event was really fun. We should do it again. One great thing about it was that they were good at putting people to work efficiently. You definitely felt like you were being well utilized and the tasks lent themselves to teamwork.”

“I had a good sense of accomplishment, afterwards I was tired and slept well! I enjoyed that I got to know Sam and Lam’s son also. We worked side by side stacking boxes on pallets.”

“We had a blast! We (Edulog staff) were spread out, but in our assigned areas there was great interaction between all of us. Lots of joking around while doing the packaging. Good team cooperation! It was nice having everyone’s kids there, too! Generally, they all seemed to have a good time helping the adults. It was a good bonding experience for coworkers. It was quite nice.”



ASK ME ANYTHING

WRITTEN BY SHAWNA KNUDSON

Embracing Failure: A Path to Success.



It is often said that success is built upon a foundation of failures. Yet, despite this wisdom, there remains a stigma around the very concept of failure. Why is that? Is it fear? Perhaps it's not merely the act of failing itself, but the potential consequences that loom large in our minds. The prospect of an angry call from a disappointed parent, a missed deadline, or a product launch gone awry can evoke intense feelings of embarrassment and anxiety.

As responsibilities increase, so does the fear of failure. But here's the truth: learning to navigate these emotions and confronting failure head-on is essential for a healthy relationship with success. Let's explore how we can reframe failure and turn it into a steppingstone toward growth.

1. **Detachment and Reflection:** When faced with failure, the first step is to detach from the situation and reflect. Reflect on the thinking and beliefs that led to the misstep. What decisions were made, and why? By understanding the root causes, we gain insights that pave the way for improvement.
2. **Constructive Analysis:** Once the reasons behind the failure are clear, create a plan of action. How can you move forward positively? What adjustments can be made to avoid repeating the same mistakes? Remember, failure is an outcome, not a reflection of your identity. It's an opportunity to learn and grow.

3. **Lessons in Every Setback:** Every failure carries a lesson. Perhaps a misplaced belief or incorrect information influenced your decisions. Acknowledge these lessons without self-judgment. Even the most accomplished individuals have stumbled along their journey.
4. **Resilience and Persistence:** Putting your best foot forward after failure can be nerve-racking. But don't let fear paralyze you. Pursue your dreams relentlessly. Negative thoughts breed more failure; instead, focus on progress and resilience.
5. **Creating a Culture of Acceptance:** As a leader, foster an environment where failure is not feared but embraced. Encourage employees to learn from their missteps. When failure becomes a steppingstone, success follows.

In the end, remember that failure is not the end—it's a chapter in your story. Embrace it, learn from it, and keep moving forward.

	ROUTING Optimization and Efficiency
	BELL TIMES Studies and Optimization
	CONTRACTS Auditing and Analysis
	PLANNING Demographics and Redistricting
	OPERATIONS Policies and Metrics



STAFF UPDATES

WRITTEN BY JASMINE BROWN



REBECCA DINGMAN

Please join us in welcoming Rebecca Dingman to Edulog! Rebecca will be working as an Administrative Assistant in the Accounts Payable department. We are excited to have her as part of the team and think that she will be a valuable addition. She is happily married with three children (2 boys and a girl) and two fur babies. In her free time, she and her family love to fish, hike and play in the woods and rivers. She is a Montana local, born in Missoula and raised in Turah.

Let's also welcome Aspen Harris to the Client Services Team! She was recently accepted into a post-baccalaureate program in Cybersecurity. This, coupled with her recently obtained degree in MIS, will make Aspen a valuable addition to the team. Aspen comes to us with experience in customer service, organization and planning, and time planning. She is accustomed to working in high pace situations and has experience with brand loyalty, communication, and diversity.



ASPEN HARRIS

Edulog is thrilled to welcome these new team members, whose addition will further enhance the expertise of our already exceptionally talented staff.

THE PLACES ATHENA CAN TAKE YOU

Learn more:
www.edulog.com

Cloud-based Routing + Telematics
Best-in-class integration. Modular and scalable, suitable for any size district. Perform. Plan. Communicate.

Navigate + Track
Get the most from your onboard technology with Driver Portal Tablets. Accurate navigation + actual ridership.

Communicate + Inform
Leverage your ability to communicate with parents. Build confidence and improve your operation with Parent Portal app.

BETTER. FASTER. ATHENA



EXCITING TRAINING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT YOU IN 2024

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL ANDERSON

We are thrilled to announce a range of exciting training and networking opportunities in 2024. At Edulog, we believe in continuous learning and growth. We are committed to providing you with the tools and knowledge you need to excel with Edulog's student transportation solutions.

Edulog Virtual Learning Academy: March eSQL and April Athena Sessions with the prospect of more courses in the Fall. [Click here for more!](#)

Live virtual training is back! Edulog offers fresh developmental content to keep you up to date with quickly changing trends and growing technical capability. Get the training that your team needs to be successful without breaking your budget. Whether you are a seasoned professional or just starting, these sessions are crafted to cater to all levels of expertise.

Join our 2024 User Group sessions to connect with fellow professionals, share insights, and stay updated on Edulog products and services. These collaborative sessions provide a platform for networking and knowledge exchange, to find solutions to your queries, exchange professional experiences, voice concerns and connect with fellow transportation professionals in your region. [Click here to register!](#)

Updated Training Courses in Edulog University

We are excited to announce we will be updating training courses in Edulog University. Whether you are looking for our SQL product training or seeking a comprehensive understanding of Athena Routing and Planning, our courses will cater to diverse skill levels and learning preferences.

Online Training Sessions with a Live Trainer

We will also be continuing our online training sessions with a live trainer. Experience the benefits of interactive learning from the comfort of your own space. Engage with our expert trainers, ask questions in real-time and receive personalized guidance. Contact your Account Manager for more!

Athena Certifications Coming Soon

We are excited to announce that Athena Certifications will be launching soon! These certifications are designed to recognize and validate your expertise in utilizing Athena. Stay tuned for more details on how you can earn this significant certification and showcase your proficiency to colleagues and potential employers.

Athena Training Department Launched

We are excited to have launched a new department within Edulog that is solely focused on training for Athena. This department offers training for the Operational side of Athena and does so across all environments: remote, in-person, at-location. We will come to you, you can come to us, or we will meet on Teams and do great that way. The members of this new team have vast experience with Athena and in the world of education and teaching.

2024 is a year of possibilities, and we invite you to seize the opportunity for personal and professional growth with our exclusive training programs. Whether you are a newcomer or a seasoned professional, there is something for everyone. We look forward to accompanying you on this journey of learning and achievement.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

WRITTEN BY CORI BURNS

THE EDULOGGER
QUARTER ONE
2024



BAILEY EGGBRECHT

Edulog would like to recognize Bailey Eggebrecht, a valued member of our Athena Service Providers (ASP) team. Bailey joined Edulog as an intern in 2023, while working towards her degree in Computer Science.

Bailey graduated from the University of Montana in December. Bailey is a Montana native from Glendive. In her free time, she enjoys playing video games, pool, and going to trivia with friends. Bailey has been an instant contributor since she joined the ASP group. She is diligent in the work that she does for internal and external stakeholders. One of the most crucial things she does every day is that she holds everyone accountable to saying, “Good morning!”

See below for few more fun facts about our friend and co-worker Bailey:

Favorite Food: Burritos

Favorite Color: Pink

Dream Vacation: Tokyo

Favorite Quote: “Life is like a sandwich, no matter which way you flip it the bread comes first.”

What is something unique about you (a fun fact) that few people are aware of: I used to be super into skateboarding.

Favorite place to eat in Missoula: Montana Club

Favorite Season and why: Summer, because I never have to scrape off my car

If you could compete in the Olympics, which sport would you choose: Bobsledding

Can you play any instruments? If so, which one(s)? I can play saxophone, bass drums, and tenor drums (but I haven’t since high school so I’m probably not too great at any of those now)

What are two things on your bucket list: I want to go on a cruise someday and get a pet cat

Do you have any pets, if so what type/name: I don’t have any pets currently

If you could pick up a new skill in an instant, what would it be: Blender VFX

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

How would you describe your job at Edulog and its responsibilities to someone unfamiliar with Edulog/our products: I am a data technician, so I do work in Athena and conduct Foundational Training sessions with clients who are new to Athena to show them how to correct any discrepancies in their data.

Favorite Edulog Product or favorite part of working here: My favorite part of working here is the people I work with

Edulog advice (to clients or co-workers): Stay hydrated

EDULOG
PARENT PORTAL
Communicate with parents proactively, not reactively.
[LEARN MORE](#)

REDEFINING SUCCESS IN SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION: A JOURNEY OF REALISM AND RESOURCE OPTIMIZATION.

WRITTEN BY LAM NGUYEN-BULL

This quarter, we're thinking ahead! We're focused on planning for success (maybe for school start 2024, but even better if we have a longer time horizon).

But to plan for success, we need to know what we mean by "success." And if you are in the same situation as most of your peers, the definition of "success" (beyond the most generic objective of getting kids to school safely and ready to learn) is usually not something that you can control. Add in that you probably co-exist in a place where you are trying to reconcile many different aspects of "success" - schools don't want to change bell times, parents want bus stops convenient to their homes and stop times that work for their schedules, the finance office doesn't want to or cannot pay for more buses, there are no more drivers, and the superintendent (probably) wants to transport as many students as possible. How do you juggle and satisfy these aspects of what it means to succeed?

Are you sitting down? The answer to the above question might shock you.

You DON'T juggle them. You DON'T satisfy them.

What do I mean by this?

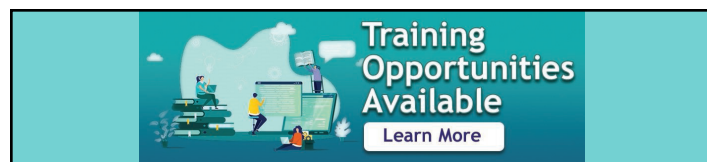
Quite simply, planning for "success" requires us to be realistic about what plausible, possible success is. If we start "planning" for a "success" that is clearly impossible, that's just a waste of time and resources and incredibly frustrating for everybody involved.

So, what can we do? We must change how success is defined.

How do we do it? With great difficulty, usually. Our definitions of success can frequently ascend to articles of faith (religious and otherwise), ideas and truths that we no longer question because they seem so obviously correct and true. Take, for example, the simple statement that we should provide free transportation to as many students to school as we can. Many of you may be shaking your heads sadly at this statement, but many others of you might recognize this statement as a simplified version of your mission statement (and there probably are people amongst you who are doing both things). And on its face, it seems like a simple enough statement. Who could disagree that this is a worthy objective?

I'm sure that you're SHOCKED, SHOCKED, SHOCKED to find out that I respectfully disagree. For example, is it really the school transportation department's job to transport students irrespective of need? Irrespective of distance from the school? Should we assume that free transportation means free transportation all the way from a stop near their homes? It turns out that a lot of assumptions, especially about available resources and reasonability of expectations, are hard-wired into objectives like these.

Redefining Success... continued on page 8.



Like articles of faith, they can be very hard to dislodge or even to question. But without questioning them, we are setting ourselves up for failure year after year. No amount of planning makes the impossible possible.

What can we do to change the definition of success? We must identify the assumptions that are wrong, demonstrate that they are wrong, using facts and reason, revisit the objectives being served, and recalibrate the definition of success on new objectives that live in the world of what's possible.

What does that have to do with us, you say? Well, quite a lot as it turns out.

Routing and planning software is often considered a tool to help solve problems. It definitely is. But often, districts facing impossible constraints (increasing ridership, larger service areas, inflexible bell times, and fewer drivers) are hoping that the software can magically erase these constraints. Good routing and planning software can eke out all the hidden capacity a system may have through re-routing and other capacity maximization tactics, but there are limits. Software, even Edulog's best-in-class software, can't produce more buses or drivers if that is what is needed.

A different use of software is to help drive a conversation about why success in transportation for your district must be redefined, how some constraints are chosen (bell-times, walk distances, ridership eligibility) and how some are not (driver availability, funds for more buses, district geography, etc.).

How, you ask?

Edulog's software can be used to provide hard data about the maximized capacity of your transportation system using the current hard constraints (geography, system capacity).

Any good decision making, especially for hard decisions, is made a little more bearable if supported by reliable data and sound analysis. Armed with these two things, difficult conversations can be initiated about the chosen constraints (transportation eligibility, bell-times, walk distances, etc.). Without data, what's left as a foundation for decision-making is intuition, subjective opinions, and assumptions, all of which may have a tenuous relationship to the facts on the ground. An obvious example is the assumption that Transportation is simply not maximizing their resources.

Some of our most successful and high-impact consulting projects have been ones where we help our clients establish that they are already making the most efficient use possible of transportation resources, given the transportation policies (i.e., choices) in effect.

So, as you look forward to school start 2024, think about what has changed and what will have stayed the same between Fall 2023 and Fall 2024. Have any of the constraints changed? If not, then maybe it's time to plan for some difficult conversations. Because the alternative is, well, to do the same things over again. And you know what they say about people who do the same things repeatedly but expect different results!

Fortunately, you don't have to do this alone! Not only can your Edulog software be a powerful tool to facilitate initiating these conversations and possibly to drive the changes that are necessary, but you also have access to a team of experienced professionals on our Advisory Services team who can help as well.

BREAKING NEWS
SCHOOL DISTRICTS REPORTED SCHOOL STARTUP PHONE CALL REDUCTIONS UP TO **75%**
[FIND OUT HOW](#)

EMPOWERING FEEDBACK: YOUR VOICE SHAPES OUR SUCCESS

WRITTEN BY EDULOG STAFF

In our commitment to providing exceptional services and enhancing our offerings, we value your feedback immensely. Periodically throughout this year, we will be reaching out to you through surveys to gather insights into your experiences with our products, customer service, and support. Your honest opinions are integral to our growth and the refinement of our software. We invite you to take a few moments to share your thoughts with us, as your feedback is the cornerstone of our improvement efforts.

- 1. Your Opinion Matters:** We recognize that our users, like you, are at the heart of our success. Your unique perspectives and experiences provide invaluable insights into how we can better cater to your needs. By participating in our surveys, you contribute directly to the enhancement of our customer service, support, and software.
- 2. Continuous Improvement:** Our commitment to excellence drives us to continuously refine our offerings. Through the information gathered from your responses, we can identify areas where we excel and pinpoint areas that may require attention. This iterative process of improvement ensures that we stay at the forefront of providing high-quality services and cutting-edge software.
- 3. Tailoring to Your Needs:** Your feedback helps us understand your specific requirements, allowing us to tailor our services and software to meet your expectations.

Whether it's streamlining our customer support processes or introducing new features in our software, your input influences the decisions we make to enhance your overall experience.

- 4. Building a Community of Feedback:** We believe in fostering a community of open communication. By actively participating in our surveys, you join a collective effort to shape the future of our products and services. Your voice not only benefits you individually but also contributes to the collective improvement of the entire user community.
- 5. Appreciation for Your Time:** We understand that your time is valuable, and we appreciate the minutes you dedicate to providing us with your insights. Your efforts in completing our surveys impact our ability to refine and elevate the services we offer. As a token of our gratitude, we assure you that your feedback will be carefully considered in our strategic planning and implementation.

Your role in shaping our services, support, and software is crucial to our success. As we embark on this journey of continuous improvement, we extend our sincere gratitude for your willingness to share your thoughts. Together, we can build a stronger, more responsive platform that aligns with your expectations and needs. Your feedback is not just a survey response; it's a catalyst for positive change, and we look forward to hearing from you throughout the year.

SCHOOL STARTUP

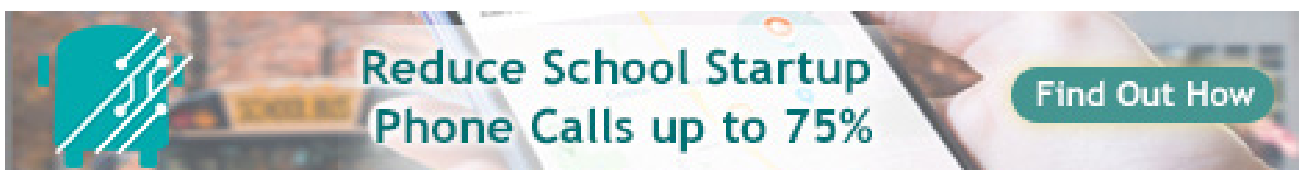
WRITTEN BY LEXIE DUVALL

At this time of the year our transportation departments stand on the threshold of a new Academic year, preparing for the monumental task of school startup for 2024-2025. In this annual endeavor, Edulog is committed to being your steadfast partner, ensuring a seamless transition into the upcoming school year.

In the following weeks, our Account Management team will be reaching out to you to schedule a discussion about your plans and requirements for the upcoming academic year. Our commitment is to ensure that the transition from the current year to the next is as smooth and effortless as possible for your district.

Your Account Manager will play a pivotal role in by queuing up your support tickets so you don't have to concern yourself on the upcoming dates for each of your tasks and, seeking to update your district's information in our system. As we embark on this journey together, some of the questions you can anticipate and prepare for are:

1. **First Day of School for 2024-2025:** When does your academic year kick off? Knowing this essential date sets the stage for effective planning. Having your data ready ahead of time saves everyone some of that first-day-back stress.
2. **Planned Changes in Your District:** Are there any upcoming changes like the opening or closing of schools, or any boundary changes/updates that we should be aware of? Ensuring that your map data is accurate is a pivotal point to maintaining healthy records, and routing students properly.
3. **Data Areas in Use:** Understanding the different data areas you use for planning, live routing, and archiving data. This insight ensures that our support aligns with your specific data management needs.
4. **Student and Fleet Statistics:** Verifying crucial statistics, such as the number of transported regular-ed and special-ed students; as well as details about your fleet, including the number of buses, dedicated SPED vehicles, number of active routes, and number of active schools is important for staying up to date for vehicle and student transportation needs.
5. **Updating your district's information in our systems is a primary objective.** The school startup survey ensures that we have the most accurate and up-to-date details, laying the foundation for effective collaboration. Simultaneously, we'll be meticulously planning and implementing any technical support requests you may have. Whether it's moving data, student rollovers or addressing specific needs unique to your district, our expert team is poised to assist you at every turn.



MY SECRET
PLAN
TO RULE
THE WORLD

SCHOOL STARTUP CONTINUED

We recognize the significance of a seamless start to the school year and our goal is to provide unwavering support. Our upcoming discussions will explore your specific concerns, questions, and any areas where you would appreciate additional assistance. Your satisfaction and success are at the forefront of our mission.

As we gear up for school startup, we understand the important role transportation departments play in the overall success of a district. To enhance our partnership, we encourage open communication, collaboration, and the sharing of insights that will contribute to a positive and efficient transition.

Our team is genuinely excited about the opportunity to assist you during the school startup for the 2024-2025 school year. We are committed to being your guiding force, ensuring a successful and rewarding academic year for your district.

Thank you for entrusting us with this responsibility. Together, let's make the journey ahead a seamless and successful one!

CHANGING THE GAME FOR ***SPED OPTIMIZATION***

 EDULOG

Multi-dimensional run/route optimization, customizable seats, and more come together to create a powerful SPED Route Management System.



Start your conversation with Edulog to learn how we can streamline your operations and optimize daily runs:

www.edulog.com



Accounts for vehicle type, need, and school bell time for arrival.



Can handle both SPED-only and SPED/Gen Ed blended groups.



Improved safety.



RECIPE: CROCKPOT FREEZER MEALS

WRITTEN BY SARAH HUTCHERSON

Discover the Joy of Crockpot Freezer Meals!

Simplify your evenings with easy-to-prepare dishes, perfect for the busiest of days. Say hello to the ultimate solution - Crockpot Freezer Meals!

Why Crockpot Freezer Meals?

- Stay on budget while stocking your freezer with these convenient dump-and-go recipes.
- Ideal for busy nights, providing a hassle-free dinner solution.

Make Meal Prep a Breeze!

Top tips for successful Crockpot Freezer Meals:

1. Label each Ziploc bag with the meal names, date, cooking times, and directions.
2. Dedicate a few hours one weekend for a streamlined meal prep session.
3. Prepare veggies, trim meat, and precook as needed.
4. Fill bags with ingredients - a systematic approach ensures efficiency.
5. Utilize baggy clips as an extra set of hands for smoother preparation.
6. Seal and freeze bags flat for organized storage.

Thaw and enjoy!

Helpful reminders:

- Explore Recipes: Choose from a variety of recipes suitable for freezing, including hearty stews, savory soups, and flavorful meats. You can never go wrong with a Pinterest search! Don't forget to check for any last-minute additions or pre-cooking requirements!
- When ready to use, thaw overnight in the fridge.
- Use a crockpot liner for easy cleanup - no scrubbing required.

Make Crockpot Freezer Meals your new kitchen ally - efficient, delicious, and a time-saver on those busy nights. Try them out and transform your weeknight dinners!

Missing a Piece?

Route Management | Parent App
GPS/AVL Telematics | Student Ridership

Complete Your Transportation Puzzle

Ask us about our new Cloud-Based, All-in-One Solution
www.edulog.com | 406-728-0893

Start tracking, Start knowing.

GPS Tracking

Learn how real-time data can benefit your district.

Accuracy
Integration
Insight

Learn More



Sudoku

	6		3				8	
					9			1
1				7		6		
8		2		5	6	3		7
	7			4				6
6	4				3	8	1	5
4	8		2			1		
9			1	3	5	4		
	5		4					

Answers to this quarter's sudoku puzzle are on the last page.

EDULOGGER

THE EDULOGGER A NEWSLETTER FOR CLIENTS

Editors:

Jasmine Brown
Arika Steele
Chelsea Reichard
Lam Nguyen-Bull

Contributors:

Edulogger Editors	Cori Burns
Lexie Duvall	Samantha Stokey
Shawna Knudson	Michael Anderson
Sarah Hutcherson	

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.



Sudoku Answers

7	6	5	3	1	4	2	8	9
2	3	4	6	8	9	5	7	1
1	9	8	5	7	2	6	3	4
8	1	2	9	5	6	3	4	7
5	7	3	8	4	1	9	2	6
6	4	9	7	2	3	8	1	5
4	8	6	2	9	7	1	5	3
9	2	7	1	3	5	4	6	8
3	5	1	4	6	8	7	9	2

KNOW THE WHOLE STORY

Safe & Secure Reduce Costs Smart Substitution

Critical data for your district and your community.
www.edulog.com Info@edulog.com EDULOG

Learn More