

Project Overview

\$1.76 million Ohio
Department of
Education Straight A
Fund grant awarded
in August 2014

Consortium of
20 school districts,
1 board of
developmental
disabilities,
4 educational service
centers,
2 information
technology centers

Lead District:
Noble Local Schools
Dan Leffingwell,
Superintendent

dan.leffingwell@gozeps.org
740-732-2084

Management and
execution of the grant,
including fiscal
services:
Muskingum Valley
Educational Service
Center (MVESC)
David Branch,
Superintendent

david.branch@mvesc.org
740-452-4518

Ohio
Shared Services
Collaborative

Working Together to
Accomplish More

Optimizing School Transportation through Design, Planning and Analysis

What is the purpose of this project?

This project will save money for 20 school districts and one board of developmental disabilities by creating a shared services transportation consortium to: reduce bus idling time; streamline and eliminate bus routes; monitor student ridership; reduce time to transport students; and share parking and bus garage centers. In addition, an online, multi-district transportation database to facilitate student scheduling and coordinate communication for various users will be developed. The partnership of four educational service centers and two information technology centers was critical in implementing this project and will be equally important as the project unfolds.

Why is this important?

The consortium now spends nearly \$21 million a year transporting public and nonpublic students. While transportation costs are climbing, enrollment in the area has declined by 11,000 students the past 10 years, a 27 percent decrease. By reducing the consortium fleet of more than 400 buses by five percent and transportation operating costs by an additional two percent, we are projecting savings of nearly \$4 million over the course of the five-year Straight A Grant. The money saved in this area of school district operations can be reallocated back into the classroom to further impact student learning.

What are the goals and benefits?

- Reduce bus idle time to an agreed-on industry standard to decrease costs associated with fuel burn.
- Streamline fleet inventory to reduce costs associated with excess inventory, such as maintenance, storage, insurance and the like.
- Reconfigure bus routes, bus stops and parking and maintenance facilities to optimize efficiencies, within and across school districts.
- Improve student safety and bus capacity determination by using Radio Frequency ID (RFID) technology.
- Develop an online, multi-district transportation database to facilitate student scheduling and cross district communication.
- Maintain *each district's* local decision-making control, while working in a shared services model.

What is the progress to date?

- 448 buses equipped with GPS and RFID technologies.
- RFID and GPS technology fully operational.
- Consortium-wide idle times reduced by 20 percent.
- Alternate, optimized bus routing models available for district consideration.
- In-district and cross-district scheduling application launched.
- Feasibility studies to understand opportunities for shared maintenance facilities and fleets.
- Developing shared routes to common destinations (i.e. career centers).
- Plans to widen the consortium pilot to include additional districts and boards of developmental disabilities across the southern and eastern range of Ohio.