Keller Independent School District

SIMPLIFIES DISTRICT COMPLIANCE AND INTERNAL COORDINATION BY TRANSITIONING TO A DIGITAL SPECIAL POPULATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.
The Challenge

Keller Independent School District takes pride in being intentionally exceptional. A large and diverse district serving students from seven different towns, KISD maintains high standards of achievement and its students consistently rank among the top 25 percent academically in the state.

As Director of Language Acquisition, Mary Martin is responsible for meeting the needs of KISD’s second language learners. The district already had effective compliance procedures in place, but the paperwork was incredibly time consuming. She needed to find a way to increase the focus on instruction by reducing the time spent on monitoring compliance.

“A big goal for us was to have all of our previous folders and ELL/LPAC documentation scanned and loaded into eStar [powered by Frontline Education] so that we’d have access to all of those things digitally. We stopped paper altogether.”

— Mary Martin, Director of Language Acquisition

Getting teachers, administrators and district staff on the same page was another important objective for their program. Sharing communication and storing all student records in one place would allow committees to identify the most effective instructional program for each child.

The Solution

Improving both compliance and communication by transitioning to a paperless system was a priority. Instead of maintaining paper folders for every student, the KISD team now relies on eStar, powered by Frontline, to help collect and store student data and monitor progress.

With Frontline’s software, student records are available electronically to everyone who participates in the decision-making process. It’s no longer just the ESL teachers’ responsibility to provide information. When committees meet to plan for assessments and accommodations, their collaboration results in more effective service to students.

If a student receives support from multiple departments, including 504 or Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD), the software provides the platform to share that information.

District Background

LOCATION: Keller, Texas
ENROLLMENT: 36,570 students
FACILITIES: 42
STAFF: 4,049

Solutions Used

eStar powered by Frontline Education
- English Language Learner (ELL/LPAC) Program Management
- Admission, Review and Dismissal Process (ARD) Management
- 504 Program Management

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The Results:

POWERFUL COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY TO COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT FOR KELLER ISD

With solid procedures already in place for ELL/LPAC, it was important for Keller ISD to move away from having to develop their own forms. Not only has Frontline helped streamline compliance management by eliminating the need for paper files, but reliable digital storage also prevents the problem of lost or misplaced folders.

Kila Bach, ELL Compliance Facilitator, reviews all teacher Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) documents by going through them with a fine-tooth comb to make sure everything matches up. Working closely with Frontline, Kila makes suggestions to the Frontline technology team about developing customized reports and tools for ELL data assessment and progress reporting.

To support teachers as they transition to electronic files, she provides plenty of training and guidance. Kila’s goal is to make the new system easily accessible and efficient for everyone, and the Frontline team helps with that process.

MANAGING CHANGE PROACTIVELY

As forms and documents are changed or revised in the software, Keller’s ESL department takes a proactive approach by implementing a consistent process for training teachers and staff. A how-to guide is created and presented for each new procedure, followed by a video demonstration which is available on demand. Each new procedure is introduced to teacher groups according to grade level, with individual support available when needed.

“If teachers are not sure about something, I can take over their screen, walk them through and guide them and tell them exactly what they need to do. If we’re using paper, I can’t see that. I would have to leave, or they would have to come to me, and we’d have to have a meeting to sit down and look over whatever it is. Now they can just call me on their conference period, and we can solve the issue in five minutes.”

— Kila Bach, ELL Compliance Facilitator

EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SUPPORT

“If I’m working with a staff member that I’ve had to do some additional training with and I want to make sure they’re following through with my recommendations, then I’m able to pull all that information up here at my desk and review it.”

— Kila Bach

Keller has built a strong relationship of trust and respect with Frontline. Thanks to Kila’s constant interaction with the Frontline software, she has the hands-on experience and knowledge to know what works and often suggests potential improvements. Frontline has been responsive and easy to work with, always willing to revise documents and forms to better meet the district’s needs.

As part of a think-tank group that includes a Frontline technology expert and representatives from several surrounding districts, Kila shares ideas, challenges and solutions with colleagues. Together, the group makes recommendations for program adjustments and improvements. As true partners with Frontline, they feel that they are being heard. Their suggestions are often accepted and integrated into the program, making the software more efficient for all users.
In Conclusion

Switching to a paperless, digital system has made a world of difference for Keller ISD staff and students. Compliance management is far more efficient, and collaboration has improved between users. Because of the alignment of ARD, 504 and LPAC records, committees are able to select the most appropriate and effective accommodations for each student.

As their partner in education, Frontline continues to develop new digital tools to provide easy and reliable access to student data for Keller ISD. The reduction of paperwork and improved communication allow KISD to maintain its focus on engaging all students in exceptional educational opportunities.

About Frontline Education

Frontline Education is an integrated insights partner serving more than 12,000 K-12 organizations encompassing more than 80,000 schools and millions of educators, administrators and support personnel in their efforts to develop the next generation of learners. With more than 20 years of experience serving the front line of education, Frontline Education provides actionable intelligence and insights that enable informed decisions and drive engagement across school systems. Bringing together the best education software solutions into one unified platform, Frontline is pioneering a human capital management approach that meets the unique needs of education.

The Frontline Insights Platform makes it possible to efficiently and effectively manage the administrative needs of the education community with solutions including Frontline Central, Frontline Recruiting & Hiring, Frontline Absence & Time, Frontline Professional Growth and Frontline Special Ed & Interventions.

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