

Client Case Study

▶▶ District Profile



Each one of Syosset's three secondary schools — H.B. Thompson Middle School, South Woods Middle School, and Syosset High School--has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a "Blue Ribbon School of Excellence." Village Elementary School, has been recognized as a "No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School".

The Syosset Central School District is committed to providing an excellent education to its students that offers every opportunity to pursue their interests and talents in all areas of academics and the arts.

They are also committed to enabling each and every child to reach his or her potential. Consistent with this mission, they provide enrichment activities for all elementary and middle school students, allowing all students to benefit by working with a specialist in gifted education in each school to promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Situation

Syosset Central School District is located in Long Island, New York. It is a suburban area covering 13.2 square miles. Approximately 7,000 students are transported everyday to 7 elementary schools, 2 middle schools and 1 high school.

Solution

In February 2002 Routefinder Pro was successfully implemented at Syosset Central School District replacing a wall sized magnet board, which had been used for years to route all 64 buses. For the next four years Routefinder Pro was used effectively by Transportation Director, Michael Cotsonas, and according to Mr. Cotsonas, "A highly-efficient feature in Transfinder, called the Resource Scheduler, allowed me to visualize routes, stops, and numbers of students at each stop and improve the safe transport of students."

When Mr. Cotsonas left the Syosset School District in 2006 to head another transportation office, James Popkin took over as Transportation Supervisor. Having no previous experience with the software, but being eager to learn, Mr. Popkin jumped right in. Within his first year he was able to quickly use the Resource Scheduler to make the operation even more efficient.

Mr. Popkin noticed that some of his drivers had a significant idling time, time that could be used in transporting students. He then looked for and found several elementary school bus trips that fit into this idle time, in effect reducing three buses in all. With each bus costing \$54,000 to route each year, this represented a \$162,000 annual savings.

Benefits

The Routefinder Pro software has been the transportation routing resource at the Syosset School District for seven years. Mr. Popkin, its most recent user, was able to learn the software quickly and find efficiencies almost instantly.

These savings were then used for instructional purposes and for improving the transportation operation. Mr. Popkin was able to upgrade the district maps and invest in Transfinder's most recent innovation, Orthoimagery, a satellite map layered on GIS map data. This creates a detail-rich view of landmarks, residences, schools and streets to identify hazards and ensure the safest possible routes for students.