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District Streamlines Resource Management and Tracking

NORTHWEST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (NISD)
FORT WORTH | TEXAS

The Northwest Independent School District (NISD) is one of the fastest-growing districts in Texas. With over 30 schools; a new distribution center; more than 5,000 staff members; and almost 30,000 students, accurately managing and tracking assets is critical.

OUTGROWING AN OUTDATED SOLUTION

Telli Ervin, the district's Technology Campus Support Manager, has been with the district for more than 18 years and welcomed the implementation of Follett Destiny® Resource Manager in 2018. "Before we switched to Destiny, we knew we needed an improved inventory process with better reporting functions," Ervin said, "and we wanted it all in one place with the ability to monitor all district resources in one application. Not just our textbooks and technology resources but also resources that range from our computer-type equipment devices, media arts cameras and equipment, as well as everything from vehicles to musical instruments."

"We have been able to find more resources that we did not have in inventory as well as find equipment that needed to be retired out of circulation. The reporting functions in Destiny Resource Manager have allowed us to save the district money."

TELLI ERVIN
Technology Campus Support Manager
Northwest Independent School District
Fort Worth, TX

> "Follett Destiny Resource Manager's reporting features really help our campuses with their end-of-year collection of materials. It allowed us to have 100% collection rate from our seniors for their textbooks."

AMANDA PIPER-MCCLURE
Instructional Resource
& Technology Manager
Northwest Independent
School District
Fort Worth, TX

Amanda Piper-McClure, Instructional Resource & Technology Manager, states, "I came to Northwest ISD from the corporate world. When I started my position in 2018, the district had just made the decision to transition to Destiny Resource Manager from another textbook management program. We've grown so much since that time, and now we use Destiny to help set up new classrooms and new teachers with the resources they need to teach students."

Once the district implemented Follett Destiny® Resource Manager, they realized their needs were growing as the district grew, especially in the need for accurate and efficient tracking of all resources – and administration at NISD were pleased to find that Destiny was able to meet those needs. "We are now building kits and tracking those with their components, novels, textbooks, manipulatives, and more," said Piper-McClure. "For school nurses, they're tracking and managing things like medical beds, first aid cabinets, tools, defibrillators, etc. And our teachers are using Destiny Resource Manager to track bookshelves, pocket chart holders, tubs, furniture, and every other resource they use to operate their classrooms. Destiny Resource Manager has helped us so much as we are opening some new schools and we are able to track what we have ordered for each classroom and prepare for this large task."

DESTINY RESOURCE MANAGER: A STREAMLINED SYSTEM WITH ROBUST TRACKING CAPABILITIES

Destiny Resource Manager enables the forward-thinking school district to transform the way they manage and track their assets. Now, nearly five years after the adoption, Northwest has seen savings not just in financial resources but also in staff time.

"The data and inventory management capabilities of Destiny have enabled huge improvements that help me be more efficient in my job," said Piper-McClure. "Being able to track not only textbooks but all of our other curriculum consumables and resources under one software system really helps optimize the process."

With Destiny Resource Manager, staff can quickly and easily track what resources the district has and pinpoint where they are. Resources can be tracked as they follow staff and students when they move between schools – an essential feature, as students keep their school-issued laptops year-round from sixth grade through graduation. When every dollar counts, having an accurate accounting of high-cost resources, like computers, ensures a high level of essential fiscal responsibility.

"With Destiny, we've been able to find more resources that were not in our inventory, as well as find equipment that needed to be retired out of circulation," said Ervin. "I like having the ability to transfer materials from campus to campus when necessary to help avoid overage purchasing and having the ability to pull reports on anything still outstanding or lost. This function helps us mitigate repurchase and adds a high level of accountability. Overall, the reporting functions in Destiny Resource Manager have allowed us to save the district money."

The district shares Destiny Resource Manager with many different departments, which allows the district to fully utilize the software's cost-saving features. "Not only do we use it for technology and textbook resources, it is also used by the Fine Arts department, CTE, and the district office staff relies on Destiny to inventory AV equipment, surplus items they check out, as well as technology items they purchase," explained Ervin. Piper-McClure added that the reporting features of Destiny Resource Manager have also streamlined end-of-year materials collection. "It's allowed us to have a 100% collection rate from seniors for textbooks and/or fines," she said.

ASSESSING CURRENT NEEDS WHILE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – ALL BACKED BY DATA

The fast-growing district has nearly doubled its enrollment in the last decade, and it continues to expand. That type of rapid population increase can make budgeting and purchase planning difficult, but the data aggregated in Destiny Resource Manager has helped staff make huge strides toward keeping pace with the growth.

"Our district is growing rapidly, so we use the reporting and enrollment features of Destiny to accurately order for this growth – and ordering for growth and accuracy saves us money," said Piper-McClure. "We are using the reporting features to track down missing books and replace damaged materials as needed. We had a major flood at a campus this year and were able to account for everything within a day. Saving the time and payroll was well worth it."

The tracking capabilities of Destiny Resource Manager have made a world of difference for the district. From the warehouse to the campus level, the accuracy and accountability are saving time and money. "Reporting is a major function within Destiny, which allows us to compute figures and numbers for writing bond proposals and forecasting," Ervin shared. "Destiny not only saves us time but also ensures quality reporting."

Both Ervin and Piper-McClure agree that the most useful functions of Destiny are inventory, circulation, and ordering. "With Destiny Resource Manager, we are able to avoid over-ordering of materials for classroom inventories," said Piper-McClure.

A PARTNERSHIP FOR SUCCESS

While their previous resource management system required frequent calls to the software developer for support, Destiny Resource Manager has given Northwest staff a new sense of freedom and accomplishment.

"Follett's customer service has been top-notch," Piper-McClure said. "On the rare occasion that we have an issue, they can resolve it very quickly. Most of the time, I can call and have my question answered within minutes, and the Customer Service Representative who answers the call is able to teach me how to do what I was looking for."

Ervin seconds that sentiment. "The Destiny/Follett customer service has been impeccable."

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