

SUCCESS STORY

Portal provides parents a path to aid in student's success

Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District (ISD) understands that the biggest aid to the success of their students, outside of the skilled and dedicated district faculty, is the close involvement of parents in the education of their children.

INDUSTRY

- K-12 Education

LOCATION

- United States

USER BASE

- 115,000

SOLUTION

- RAPIDiDENTITY
- RAPID Education Portal

BENEFITS

- Automated Provisioning
- 90% Reduction in Manual Processes
- Secure Remote User Access
- Reduced Help Desk Burden

OVERVIEW

Since 2006, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD has given parents the ability to access information about their student's progress via the internet. The process of granting this access was slow and manually process intensive. The school district saw success in the program and desired to achieve greater parent participation, however, the major challenge in growing participation to the desired level was managing the number of parents that could possibly opt-in to the program. Cypress-Fairbanks is the third largest school district in Texas, with approximately 104,000 students enrolled during the current school year, adding the faculty and staff brings the number of users to approximately 115,000. This number will continue to grow as parent and guardian participation increases. Provisioning and maintaining an IT infrastructure with so many users is a daunting task, simply having a help desk large enough to accommodate all of the issues that could present themselves represents an enormous financial commitment.

SOLUTION

Identity Automation has partnered with StoneWare, Inc. to provide the perfect solution, a parent portal based around webNetworks cloud com-

puting framework and implemented with Identity Automation's RAPID Education methodology and its Identity and Data Management solution. The webNetworks solution provides a lightweight, easy to use, unified information source for parents and teachers to view data about their students. This information can vary according to the desires of the school district, in the case of Cypress-Fairbanks ISD they wanted to allow parents to view grades, standardized test scores, district news, food and transportation information, demographic comparisons of their students versus the rest of the student body, and eventually a digital report card. In the future, if parents opt to receive their child's report card digitally, a printed version will no longer be mailed, which will save the district on materials, printing and mailing costs.

The RAPID Education solution begins with the establishment of a student data warehouse where all of the data collected about a student can reside before being pushed out to the portal. After the data is centralized and the portal format is created, users can be populated into the system. In the case of the RAPID Education solution the



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BENEFITS

- Security assurance
- Process automation
- Improved service levels
- Cost reduction
- Reduced risk

OUR VALUES

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Stewardship
- Perspective
- Service

DIFFERENTIATORS

- Rapid Implementation
- Rapid ROI
- Simple to use
- Affordable

parents register themselves and are provided basic access to the portal, they then associate themselves with their student(s) and can begin utilizing the electronic data provided by the portal. Another outstanding aspect of this system is the password reset functionality that Identity Automation has built into the application. Like the systems used by banking sites, during the registration process the parents are asked to answer a number of security questions, if the account owner ever forgets their password or wishes to reset it they are presented with a number of the questions that they have answered which proves their identity. The ability for parents to create and maintain their own credentials, as well as manage their own student associations, within the system represents a significant cost saving, that alleviates the need to bring on additional staff to maintain the system.

BENEFIT

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD was able to leverage Identity Automation to implement a system that increased services to their constituents without requiring additional staff to manage and operate the system. The entire implementation was complete from inception to go-live in under three months, and was delivered at a low fixed-fee cost. The budget considerations and schedule-friendly timeline of the RAPID Education portal are good reasons for any school district to choose this solution, and Cypress-Fairbanks ISD took those reasons in to account along with its previous experience with the vendor. Identity Automation has established itself as a true authority on Identity, Data and Ac-

cess Management and had a proven track record of trust with the district which ultimately lead to the decision to choose them for the project.

"Everyone (Identity Automation) was very knowledgeable, and they use sound business and technological judgment", comments the district's Director of Information Services, "We trust them."

Trust is built on the ability to deliver, on time and on budget, and Identity Automation's previous work with Cypress-Fairbanks ISD made their selection easy. With the RAPID Education portal in place Cypress-Fairbanks is prepared to offer parents the next generation of parent, teacher, and student connectivity. A solution that will deliver to every parent who wishes to participate, a complete snapshot of their child's success, the knowledge of where they might be able to help, and updates from the schools the student attends and the district they are a part of. A solution that combines both a best-of-breed solution with best practice knowledge in the fields of Identity / Data Management and Security, and a solution that is budget friendly, flexible and, hands down, the only solution on the market that can deliver such feature rich capabilities in such a short timeframe.



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