

Overview

Collaboration Profile

- Jefferson County Public Schools
- Metro Louisville Boys & Girls Clubs (Salvation Army)
- Louisville Urban League
- Portland Community House
- Louisville Metro Parks Dept
- YMCA

- Louisville, Kentucky
- Serving over 13,000 students

Funding Sources

- Local United Way
- City of Louisville
- Juvenile Justice Granting Oversight Committee

Program Data Requirements

- Afterschool program participation
- Academic record information
- Reports/documentation/funding
- Match programs to student needs

Key Benefits Gained

- Electronic data collaboration
- Improved school attendance
- Higher grade point averages
- Reduction in school suspensions
- Academic/ behavioral improvements
- Match students with programs
- Automated attendance tracking
- Smarter program development
- Faster grant preparation / approval

Quote

"I believe that other school districts can use the same strategy to encourage the best use of youth centers' services in the interest of improving students' classroom achievement, strengthening their commitment to school and leading them to make good life choices."

– **Marty Bell**,
Deputy Superintendent, Retired
Jefferson County Public Schools

Case Study: Linking Afterschool Programs to Student Records to Aid Poor Performers

The Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) in Louisville, Kentucky, made a decision to share student information with area youth centers in an effort to measure the effectiveness of after-school programs. One of the community providers involved in the discussions directed them to KidTrax, a tracking and reporting system, developed by nFocus Software, to track membership and attendance in youth programs.

KidTrax utilizes special bar-coded ID cards that are scanned each time an individual enters and leaves a youth center, providing a complete log of time and attendance without the need for paper sign-in sheets or manual data entry and compilation. Scanned information is uploaded to the KidTrax online database daily. Youth facilities can then retrieve that data in the form of reports designed to aid in program development and provide easy access to information for funding requests.

JCPS decided to further improve the process by importing the KidTrax attendance information into their data warehouse for correlation with students' academic records. By bridging the data, they could begin measuring the academic impact of afterschool programs in their district.

Forging the Partnership

JCPS successfully enlisted the aid of local afterschool programs in improving students' academic performance. They worked with nFocus Software to create a system enabling afterschool program administrators to electronically access student grades and other key school records, and identifying individuals that needed academic support. Early results indicated a positive impact on student achievement.

The cooperation between the school district and the community providers produced encouraging effects in other school-related areas. Based on statistics from all six Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs linked to the system, regular participants in the clubs' afterschool activities have an average 96.6% school attendance record — 4- to 7-points above other students attending those same feeder schools.

Both parties benefit. Schools use the data for academic analysis and the youth centers use the student records to match attendees to their academic activities.

Marty Bell, retired Deputy Superintendent of the JCPS, stated, "I believe that other school districts can use the same strategy to encourage the best use of youth centers' services in the interest of improving students' classroom achievement, strengthening their commitment to school and leading them to make good life choices."

Terminology

***Stanine** (STANDARD NINE) is a method of scaling test scores on a nine point standard scale with a mean of five (5) and a standard deviation of two (2).

A **Title I school is a school where at least 40% of students are at or below the poverty level, determined by free and reduced lunch counts, AFDC, the census or Medicaid.

About KidTrax®

KidTrax is a comprehensive web-based youth and membership tracking system that combines ID cards, scanning technology, a middleware connection to school district databases, reporting, and a variety of other tools to assist in tracking, managing and analyzing participation in youth programs. The system automatically logs time and attendance information by scanning special ID cards when members enter and leave a facility, eliminating paper sign-in sheets and manual compilation. Reports identify key usage patterns to aid in program development and documentation for funding requests.

About nFocus Software®

nFocus Software is the leading provider of tracking, testing and training products for the public sector with over 3,500 customers worldwide. The company's KidTrax product is the #1 youth tracking and membership management system. Customers include Boys & Girls Clubs, Police Activities Leagues, The Salvation Army, U.S. Army, GEAR UP and Weed & Seed programs.

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Accessing Student Records

Considering that today's youth spend only 13% of their waking hours in school and the other 87% outside the classroom, afterschool programs can be an important ally in strengthening students' achievement levels, school attendance and overall attitudes toward education.

More than 50 afterschool programs serving over 13,000 of the 97,500 students in the Jefferson County School District have purchased KidTrax at an approximate cost of \$3,500 per facility, plus an annual support fee that includes data hosting, support, and software updates. The costs have been partially offset by funding from the local United Way, the City of Louisville, and a Juvenile Justice granting oversight committee.

Parents whose children attend afterschool programs in the Jefferson County School District are given a "Confidentiality and Disclosure Agreement" to sign before their child's information is loaded into the system. In years of data collection, only a handful of parents have declined to sign the agreement.

If the data shows a student's grades or test scores are low, the afterschool facility encourages the student to enroll in a tutoring program. If a student has school attendance or suspension problems, he/she can be matched to an appropriate intervention program.

One Center's Experience

Delisa Williams, Unit Director for the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club in the Newburg neighborhood of Louisville, uses information extracted from the school records in two ways: one, to identify individual club members in need of existing academic support services, and two, in collaboration with her organization's local headquarters, to secure funds for new programs.

Recently, the center's Program Development Director used the system to identify members of the city's six Boys & Girls Clubs who have low stanines* and attend one of 39 local Title I** schools. The search discovered more than 650 children, including over 100 who attend the facility. Armed with that data, she applied for and received a Supplemental Educational Services grant under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) that would pay for one-on-one tutoring. Her staff then contacted the youths' parents to inform them of the tutoring opportunity. Over 110 enrolled within three days.

Better Grades and More

As reported in the [JCPS whitepaper](#) describing the origins and early results of this project, data analyzed from the 2004-2005 school year shows strong correlations between regular attendance at afterschool programs and

- improved school attendance, higher grade point averages, and reductions in school suspensions
- improved academic/behavioral records for students with frequent visits to afterschool programs.

The readily available data saves hours of time in grant preparation and other fund raising efforts. Through the information gleaned from both KidTrax and school records, afterschool programs now have hard data that can be used to tailor their services to their constituents' needs and assist in securing new or renewed funding.

Building the bridge between schools and afterschool providers makes a true, measured difference in reaching students who need help.