ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP)

Streamlining Your District’s Processes with NEOnet’s eFinancePLUS™ Service

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INTRODUCTION

To be effective, school districts must embrace the efficiencies that technology delivers.

As staff members take on new responsibilities for reporting student data, districts must become smarter about automating and integrating data with the help of technology. The answer to increasing efficiency—in terms of both time and resources—is simple: enterprise resource planners (ERPs).

Put simply, an ERP is a process management software that offers school districts a system of streamlined applications to control daily business operations. While businesses have been using ERPs for nearly 40 years, integrating this type of advanced system is now becoming a top priority for school districts.

Oftentimes, districts utilize a range of separate applications for various back office functions, such as technology, student services, human resources and payroll. With so many disparate functions, school districts are recognizing the value of using an ERP to bring together all of the different processes and create one fluid system.

In this whitepaper, NEOnet will define why ERPs are beneficial for school districts, and why it’s critical to use a planning software that organizes all of your district’s data in one secure place. By using the ERP eFinancePLUS™, schools can eliminate the need for third-party systems to conduct payroll and business operations, making the processes increasingly efficient and effective.
WHY SCHOOL DISTRICTS NEED ERP SOFTWARE

Many school districts are slow to adopt new technology. But schools must have a total business solution in place that essentially streamlines the ‘business’ of educating students.

A fully configured ERP software system like eFinancePLUS™ involves a variety of key functions that administrators and treasurers may otherwise manage using disjointed, third-party applications. The following functions of ERPs can maximize data convenience while minimizing complexity:

- Expenses
- Procurement
- Grants management
- Budgetary control and commitment
- Fund accounting
- Financial reporting and analytics
- Revenue management
- Asset management
- Projects

By implementing an ERP with these functionalities, districts can acquire a more accurate and complete understanding of every department within the schools. This provides an internal governance that reduces the risk for data breaches whilst equipping administrative staff members with contextual, applicable financial insights.

In particular, the functions offered by eFinancePLUS™ align with three major areas of a school district’s operations, including:

1. Accounting
2. Human Resources Procurement
3. Business Operations

Using eFinancePLUS™ gives administrators access to all of the operational reports needed to make meaningful decisions that impact student learning. From forecasting and fixed assets to accounts payable and receivable, districts can employ ERPs to streamline each and every report. Though districts are comprised of many moving parts and complexity is ultimately inevitable, ERPs allow each component to work together, maximizing the functionality of data in a consistent, easy-to-use interface for all users.

In effect, ERPs deliver major cost savings to school districts while ensuring compliance and increasing efficiency across all operational platforms.
THE 3 MAIN ADVANTAGES OF ERPS

When evaluating the best solution for your school district, you must understand how the various data inputs can be integrated into an output that works for your accounting, human resources and business needs.

What are your district’s data-processing needs?

At the top of every school district’s list of priorities is state compliance. Fortunately, ERPs like eFinancePLUS™ ensure that all state requirements are met, freeing your administrators to focus on other tasks.

Once your district’s data is compliant, you can now embrace the three main advantages of ERP software,

1. **Automation** – ERPs are designed to takeover many of your administrators’ most challenging, time-consuming tasks. For example, a K-12 financial officer is usually responsible for reporting on the district’s spending each month. With an automated ERP in place, the data will be pulled from several applications within one centralized system. Your finance officer will no longer have to search for the information across multiple platforms. Instead, the ERP will configure regular, automated reports so that your information can be reported on time in the exact manner you need.

2. **Integration** – Integration refers to ERP software’s capability to ‘speak’ to other applications. Every school district consists of separate departments, which often utilize a range of technologies for reporting and data collection. For example: if your district’s financial department and its human resources department need to share information with one another on an ongoing basis, an ERP can integrate and connect all departments in real time so they can all work together immediately. In effect, this will improve the accuracy reporting by reducing data-entry errors, as well as combine information in one, centralized storehouse.

3. **Cost-savings** – By eliminating the need for third-party software systems and applications, school districts will benefit from major cost savings by using an ERP. Without so many disparate systems, districts can become more efficient in how they spend their funds for data reporting and technology while simultaneously organizing the operational processes.
How Can Districts Benefit from eFinancePLUS™?

Despite the options out there, some schools are still hesitant about integrating an ERP for all of the district’s data processes. If you’re questioning whether NEOnet’s solution, eFinancePLUS™, will provide the internal governance your district needs, one example may provide the answers you need.

The Cloverleaf Local School District is a great model for how schools can embrace ERP software for the betterment of the district’s internal organizational processes, like accounting, human resources and general business operations.

Before implementing eFinancePLUS™, Cloverleaf Local Schools was using an archaic State software with green-screen, function-key applications. This made it difficult for the district to hire new people, to manage full reports and to align the workflows of the various departments. With its data scattered and its limited inventory, the district knew it was time for change.

eFinancePLUS™ granted Cloverleaf Local Schools the chance to get rid of its third-party applications, which immediately led to major cost savings for the district. After using the ERP for several months, Cloverleaf Local Schools realized how much more user-friendly the software is, with features like forecasting and fiscal management. Now, Cloverleaf’s reporting features are endless, which in turn has led to higher-quality data that’s both compliant with state requirements and much more organized.

“eFinancePLUS™ granted Cloverleaf Local Schools the chance to get rid of its third-party applications, which immediately led to major cost savings for the district.”
NEOnet’s ERP eFinancePLUS™ is the perfect solution to streamline your school district’s data processes, eliminating the need for third-party applications and resulting in major cost savings. Schools can rest assured that their data is organized, integrated and compliant with the help of NEOnet’s support services. With eFinancePLUS™, decision-makers have the reports they need to make meaningful choices that impact student learning.

NEOnet is proud to offer a cost-effective ERP, eFinancePLUS™, solution to school districts looking to increase communication, efficiency and accuracy. As of September 1, 2018, 71 school districts across Ohio are currently using or in the process of implementing eFinancePLUS™ and have found great success. Now is your chance to streamline your district’s data with NEOnet—contact us to find out more about this solution.

eFinancePLUS Adoptions with Management Council

HCC
- Southwest
- West Clermont

LACA
- Licking Heights

LGCA
- Beachwood
- Euclid

META
- Canal Winchester
- Strongsville

MVECA
- Northwestern

NEOMIN
- Ashtabula Co. ESC
- Bloomfield
- Brookfield
- Grand Valley
- Howland
- Jefferson
- Joseph Badger
- Liberty
- Maplewood
- Niles
- Trumbull Co. CTC
- Weathersfield

NEOnet
- Brunswick
- Cleveland Heights
- Cloverleaf
- Cuyahoga Falls
- Nondonia Hills
- Shaker Heights
- Summit Academies
- Summit Co. ESC

NOASCC
- Bowling Green

NWOC
- Ayersville
- NWOESC
- Northwood
- PENTA CTC

SPARCC
- Alliance
- Lake
- Massillon
- Plain
- Northwest
- Streetsboro

SWOCA
- Northwest

TCCSA
- Ashland/West Holmes CTC
- Beacon Hill
- Green
- Hilldale
- Liberty Prep
- Loudonville-Perrysville
- Northwestern
- Norwayne
- Orrville
- Rittman
- Southeast
- Tri-County ESC
- Wayne Co. JVS
- West Holmes

WOCO
- Anna
- Graham
- Kenton
- Madison-Champaign ESC
- Minster
- New Knoxville
- Sidney
- Upper Scioto Valley
- Upper Valley CC
- Urbana
- Waynesfield-Goshen

Italicized = Live Now
Black = Implementing