



infinite visions[®]
a tyler school solution

Client Case Study

Douglas County School District, Nevada

At a Glance: Douglas County School District, Nevada

- Industry: Public School District
- Number of Employees: 819
- Number of Students: 5,500+
- Years as a Tyler client: 10
- Contact: www.dcsd.k12.nv.us

Tyler solutions:

- Infinite Visions[®]

Results:

- Increased budget transparency using CellSense technology
- Improved community engagement without spending additional money



District Improves Budget Transparency with CellSense

Situation Overview

As access to technology continues to rise, school districts across the country are making great strides to increase their accountability and the level of insight community members have in the budgeting process. One such district is the Douglas County School District, located in the Carson Valley and Lake Tahoe regions of Nevada.

Faced with limited funding and resources to devote to a new transparency product, the district capitalized on the existing technology available in Tyler's Infinite Visions[®] software to better inform and engage stakeholders in how their tax dollars are being spent.

Leveraging Existing Technology to Overcome Limited Resources

In early 2016, it came to the attention of the Douglas County school board that a larger school district in their state had recently launched a budget transparency website aimed at giving community members an in-depth look at how their district is being run. Naturally, the Douglas County School District saw the value in making this information accessible to their stakeholders as well. The challenge? With fewer than 850 employees, they lacked many of the resources available at a larger district. They had to find a better way.

"The other school district had a room full of people doing the coding to support their new transparency solution," said Financial Reporting and Data Analyst Susan Strople. "That's not something that will work for us as a smaller district. We don't have the manpower to do that. So, we looked at what we can do."

Since joining the district two years ago, Strople has worked diligently to ensure the district's Infinite Visions software was being used to its full potential. This has included taking full advantage of CellSense, an advanced reporting tool that allows users to map their account or budget data to a pre-formatted Microsoft[®] Excel[®] spreadsheet to quickly and easily generate custom reports.



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“CellSense is a wonderful tool that we use for all kinds of strategic reporting – board reports and grant reports – and all kinds of slices and dices of our budgeting and year-to-date transactions. Using CellSense, we were able to pull out exactly what information we wanted to share with the public.”

— Susan Strople,
Financial Reporting and Data Analyst,
Douglas County School District, Nevada

Strople wondered if the district could further leverage their existing tools to create a transparency website of their own.

From there, Strople and the rest of the district’s Business Services staff approached IT to make that information available online. About a month later, they were up and running.

Today, key stakeholders like the superintendent, school board and community members can access a budget overview and budget details directly from the Douglas County School District website. And using the pre-formatted Excel spreadsheet, Strople runs CellSense each time a new budget is approved, and provides the updated charts and graphs to IT to ensure their transparency website remains up-to-date.

“The telling part is that the public can now go online and see what we’re paying in salaries, who we’re paying them to. They can see that with a very limited staff, we provide services for the whole district,” Strople said. “You can see that we’re spending the money where it should be spent to successfully educate our children.”

Strople said their constituents are now enjoying the greater access to information that was previously only available if they attended a board meeting or obtained the board meeting minutes.

“We historically have never had any of these capabilities,” she said. “Without CellSense you really couldn’t produce something like this quickly and easily.”

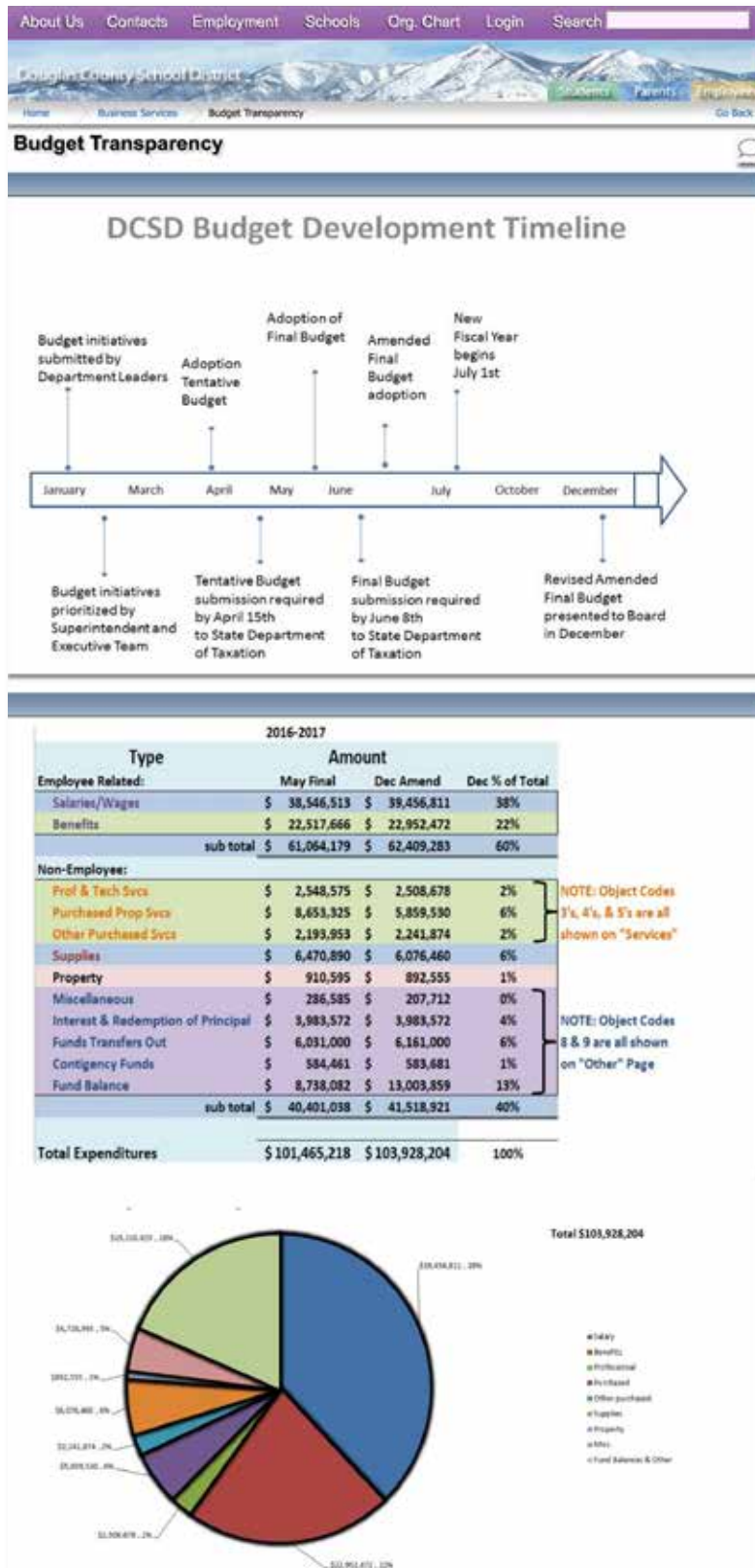
Looking Ahead

In the future, the Douglas County School District Business Services staff hopes to expand upon their budget transparency website by making it more interactive for their stakeholders. They’re also looking forward to being on the cutting edge as state transparency mandates become more prevalent.

“Most states now have a mandate that government entities make their budget information public. Eventually, I believe that’s going to roll down to the school districts,” Strople said. “We’re ahead of the curve because we’re already transparent. It’s really important for us to show the community we have nothing to hide. Open communication helps us inform and engage our community in the education of our children.”

To learn more about Tyler’s best-in-class solutions, email info@tylertech.com or call **800.646.2633**.





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