



FAS Suite®

CUSTOMER

Pittsburgh School District

PROFILE

Headquarters

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Type of Organization

Education

Number of Locations

90

SYSTEM PROFILE

FAS Solutions in Operation

- FAS Asset Accounting™
- FAS Asset Inventory™
- FAS Report Writer™

FAS Suite Automates Fixed Asset Management for Pittsburgh Schools

As the Pittsburgh School District found, it takes much more than good teachers to run a successful school system. To help ensure the school district runs smoothly, the accounting department must track every piece of inventory in each of the region's 93 schools.

With more than 21,000 assets—including athletic equipment, carpentry machinery, and computers—it was imperative for the department to implement a system that could track all of its assets across the entire metropolitan area throughout the year. And, most importantly, the system had to be able to generate accurate reports at year's end. As a government entity, the district also needed a system that automated and streamlined the entire tracking process, making it compliant with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements 34/35.

Challenges

Each year, Dan Pastorius, fixed asset senior accountant for the District, travels from school to school, inventorying and analyzing each location's fixed assets. As

required by auditors, he must visit half of the schools each year.

"Needless to say, this is a time-consuming, tedious task in itself," Pastorius said. "Factor in all the other accounting responsibilities for our department, and we needed to find a way to make my time more cost-effective for the District."

The second largest school district in Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh must inventory and track 21,000 fixed assets across 90 remote locations. The process involves much more than tallying chalkboards and desks. The system's fixed assets include overhead projectors, computers, playground and athletic equipment, auto shop machinery, musical instruments, and janitorial supplies, to name just a few.

The real challenge was to implement a fixed asset system that could manage assets in a timely manner and enable the accounting department to generate accurate reports on-demand to monitor real-time use of assets and qualify purchase requests. For example, if an auto lift was not being used in an auto shop at one high school, then it could be relocated

CHALLENGE

Find an automated fixed asset system that could more efficiently track fixed assets across multiple locations and generate more accurate reports.

SOLUTION

FAS Suite, the industry-leading fixed asset management solution, which includes FAS Asset Accounting, FAS Asset Inventory, and FAS Report Writer.

RESULTS

FAS Suite enabled Pittsburgh Schools to inventory and maintain its 21,000 assets while reducing inventory time by 40 percent.

"FAS Suite has not only made work less tedious with automated inventory tracking, it has also enabled me to generate reports in a matter of minutes, allowing me to strategically analyze our asset allocation and usage at any given time. In short, it has improved ease of use and increased productivity."

*Dan Pastorius, Senior Accountant
Pittsburgh School District*

to another school that needed it rather than the school purchasing a new one.

Business Partnerships

The District first became a Best Software customer in 1995, based on auditors' recommendations to install fixed asset software in order to alleviate the time-intensive administrative tasks associated with managing asset lifecycles.

Pittsburgh's auditors, one of the top four national accounting firms, recommended Best Software to the school system based on its prior client successes with FAS™. The District had originally implemented a DOS-based version of FAS, and recently upgraded to FAS Suite in order to take advantage of the latest barcode scanning technology.

The Solution

With 90 schools throughout the metropolitan Pittsburgh area, the District needed a customized method of separating its schools into four different geographic "companies" within the FAS database. Within each company, the District was further divided into subsections of elementary, middle, and secondary schools. This customization made fixed asset financials easier to report for the accounting department, and easier to understand for outside auditors.

The school system plans to adopt an inventory-scanning device to help

significantly reduce actual inventory time on site at each school. Users will simply download the existing database information to a handheld scanner that physically scans the barcodes on each item at each school. They are then able to upload the new information back into the database, automatically reconciling the data. The system will generate different reports, based on information from matched, new, and missing items.

Results

For more than seven years, the District has continued to maximize its return on investment in FAS. The software has created a faster and more productive way of doing business by cutting actual inventory time by 30 to 40 percent.

"FAS Suite has not only made work less tedious with automated inventory tracking, it has also enabled me to generate reports in a matter of minutes, allowing me to strategically analyze our asset allocation and usage at any given time," Pastorius said. "In short, it has improved ease of use and increased productivity."

In 2002, the District began using Best Software's FAS Gov™ solution to comply with GASB Statements 34/35 which requires all government, school, and non-profit organizations to inventory, track, value, and depreciate their capital and infrastructure assets.



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