

Streamlining Budget Planning and Reporting to Address Shortfalls in a Large Public School District



K12 Public School

As one of the largest K12 school districts in the United States, Miami Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) operates like a large complex business in order to meet its commitment to excellence in education. The district is comprised of nearly 400 schools, serves 345,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and employs over 40,000 teachers, administrators and staff.

MDCPS leaders devoted a vast amount of time and energy to matters related to budget development, procurement, audits, risk management, and financial compliance. Maintaining budgeting models to meet increasing demands, conflicting priorities and evolving compliance and reporting requirements required a modern, comprehensive information system. They needed to replace the current legacy budgeting tool, as it was difficult to modify and update, and it was beyond the end of support.



Meridian Partners provided us with **highly talented people** that possessed the specific **planning and reporting experience** we needed to supplement our internal staff. Meridian Partners is a **great partner** and has been a key component of our success. ”

Judith Marte

Chief Financial Officer (Former)
MDCPS



Tight budgets, stretched staff, increasing demand for transparency, the ability to model, and stricter regulatory requirements added to the pressures the MDCPS faced to find a new solution



Business Goals for the Modern Budgeting Solution

- Develop budgets that ensure the effective use of resources to support and align budgeting practices across programs and educational departments.
- Reduce exposure to risks and errors through strategic approach to school budgeting, supported by reliable and efficient tools and resources.
- Free up resources to analyze reports to make better decisions about school spending to support desired educational outcomes (instead of building reports or maintaining the unsupported legacy system).

How MDCPS modernized its budgeting and planning system with Meridian Partners to capitalize on efficiency benefits, cost savings and compliance with state reporting requirements



Approach

Proven Implementation Services Project Methodology

An experienced Meridian team comprised of public sector budget and system experts following Meridian's time-tested delivery methodology fast tracked the solution.

Preparation

The voice of all stakeholders, including the Superintendent, school district leaders and users was imperative to identifying the business objectives and understanding all critical requirements. The project started with a series of workshops to help ensure a successful solution deployment that was 100% accurate, compliant, and met all key needs.

Implementation

The K12 Budgeting Solution was designed, built, tested and successfully put into production on-time and on-budget.

Adoption – People Matter

To facilitate system adoption, MDCPS users were involved from the beginning to end. Onboarding workshops and a dedicated support team ensured the smooth transition to the new system for the 600 end-users.



Results

Better decision making

The accuracy of data in the budget and minimizing the possibility of human error and real-time access to budget information enables leaders to make better decisions.


Increased efficiency

Modeling and reporting standards enabled the MDCPS's finance and budget team to spend more time on budget analysis, not on report building.

Employee retention

An easy-to-use system and improved budgeting process and increased employee satisfaction.

Meridian Partners ("Meridian") is certified implementation partner and reseller of many leading enterprise solutions including, SAP and Workday Adaptive Planning. Supported by over 20 years experience, Meridian Partners has helped many large government agencies maximize their investments in Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Analytics and Financial Management/Budgeting solutions. This experience provides a unique understanding of the the unique burdens that agencies face in "retiring" legacy systems and migrating to more consolidated, transparent and modernized systems which: reduce the workloads on planners and improve decision support.



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