

Simplifying and Centralizing Data

Palmdale School District / Los Angeles County, CA

29
SCHOOLS

17K
STUDENTS

88%
FREE OR
REDUCED LUNCH

21%
ELL

District Overview

Now the fourth largest elementary district in CA, with over 17,000 students, Palmdale School District has been serving the community since the 1800s. Their dedication to their diverse student body, reflected in the 36 languages spoken, is inspiring. But what's most impressive – as illustrated below – is Palmdale's forward-thinking approach to tech integration in education.

“When a parent calls us at 4pm to ask, 'Where's my little Giselle?', it's our responsibility to know.”

- Jorge Maldonado, ELOP Coordinator

The Challenge

Managing expanded learning for 25 schools means a lot of moving parts. And, even with this large size, it's still necessary for after-school administrators to always be on top of all of the details. This is hard to do without a centralized digital system.

Palmdale administrators wanted a way to know at any moment where a student is, regardless of which of their many after-school programs the child is in or which provider is leading it. As Palmdale's ELOP Coordinator, Jorge Maldonado, put it, “When a parent calls us at 4pm to ask, ‘Where's my little Giselle?,' it's our responsibility to know.”

The Challenge (Cont.)

Especially since Palmdale has many programs running at the same time, they needed a centralized place to find attendance data for all students. Each provider was managing registration and attendance on their own, so the data was spread across several places. When needed, Palmdale had to get attendance data from the providers. This extra step slowed their data collection processes down.

Our Solution

With ActivityHero's Hero ASSIST, Palmdale found a way to make tracking attendance and program details simple and convenient for them – and for their families and providers.

Palmdale flipped their set-up. They no longer have to get attendance and registration data from providers. Instead, all now goes through one centralized system that all can access, the Hero ASSIST platform. Providers have their own log-ins to get and enter the data they need, as does the district.

Centralization is helping families too. Before, families used different software, depending on provider preferences. If a family had multiple students, they may have had to navigate multiple platforms. With Hero ASSIST, they now only need one log in.

“ I love that we now have one link for our parents to enroll their children even if they have their children with different providers. When we opened registration for our fall sessions, we had 825 registrations in the first 20 minutes!

- Jorge Maldonado, ELOP Coordinator

Lessons Learned

As a tech-forward district, Palmdale offers many valuable lessons on how to introduce new expanded learning software. Below are a few.

- Embrace the partnership aspect with ActivityHero, so that, through site visits and conversations, you become one expanded learning team.
- Don't roll out the software in a piecemeal fashion, like attendance one month, enrollment another. If you want to go slowly, soft launch the full suite at a few locations and then expand.