

CASE STUDY

GEORGIA K12 SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Sheree Mobley has worked in the financial review and HR department of a small Georgia school district for over 17 years. In 2009, after the district's previous service provider lost valuable data belonging to the district, they began looking for something better that could support all the processes they needed and make their jobs easier while remaining within their budget. Following their review of several different vendors, the school district chose RDA because they offered the best value for their money.

While implementing a new software system in the middle of a fiscal year and in the last stretch of a school year is never easy, Sheree was surprised by how seamless the implementation process was with RDA's help. There was not a huge learning curve as the software is very user-friendly, and anything that did require multiple steps was set up in an intuitive manner so that once you completed one button, you simply pushed the next. You didn't have figure out the process, you could simply get work done.

The biggest surprise was that RDA took the bulk of the responsibility off Sheree's shoulders by doing the tedious work of checking and balancing everything that was being taken out of the old system and brought into the new one. Sheree had assumed this task would fall on her, and since she didn't have the staff to do that work, she was relieved when RDA took care of the process for her.

But RDA did not stop there. At the time, Sheree's was the first Georgia school district RDA had worked with and they proactively worked to understand the many things the Georgia Department of Education does that are not done in other states. RDA made it a point to understand exactly what Sheree's school district needed to see and do. They even called the state Department of Audits to ensure that they were doing what the state expected. RDA's proactive approach meant that they were doing much of the legwork that Sheree had expected to do herself, which made it a very pleasant experience overall.



When it comes to the software itself, Sheree noted that RDA's products are as good if not better than anything she has ever used. She and her entire HR department use RDA's Payroll and Finance products and consider RDA as their hub for all HR data. There are other systems that they are required to use because of state and staffing requirements, but they are able to use RDA as the main collector of HR data that feeds those other programs.

Prior to using RDA, much of their work was very manual, but RDA has helped automate their systems. For example, a manual purchase order used to involve 2-3 people and take unnecessary amounts of time to complete. Now, secretaries throughout the school district have been trained to directly complete their own purchase orders. This has not only saved time but has also helped schools to manage their federal program budgets.

RDA has also boosted efficiency and productivity by automating the payroll process for the roughly 570 employees throughout the school district. Of those, 200 are classified staff that Sheree previously had to input manually every month. With RDA's help, she was able to automate the payroll process for those employees as well, and now 95% of her job is completely automated, saving her significant amounts of time that she can now devote to other areas of her job.

The other benefit of having everything automated and uploaded to RDA's system is that everything is integrated. Unlike past programs Sheree has used, there is no disconnect between payroll and other HR pieces. This has become an essential tool as the State of Georgia has made many changes in the past ten years to their financial and teacher certification reporting requirements. Having RDA has enabled the school district to pivot quickly and respond to those changing reporting demands. To date, Sheree and her team have not encountered a situation to which RDA could not respond.

Another benefit Sheree has discovered using RDA's software is that all the data is stored in the cloud versus an on-premises server or peer-to-peer network. For example, when she had to stay home due to illness, as soon as she was feeling well enough, she could log into the cloud and work from home. It was seamless. And she and her team have never had an issue with security or data loss, something they experienced with their previous provider.



When it comes down to the difference between RDA and the other vendors on the market, Sheree said, "I don't think you would get the same level of care as we have gotten with RDA. The customer support is phenomenal. They know us, they know our name, they ask about our families, and they care. When we have a problem, they contact us. They are very forward-thinking on the customer service. They really want you to get what you need out of the software and for you to feel like you've done something for your district. You're not just a number. They want you to be successful."

She continues, "If you feel you have reporting or accounting needs that aren't being met or if you're spending a lot of time manually doing things... [or] spending a lot of time on a process that you shouldn't be, then it's worth taking a look. [RDA] can present to you virtually to show you what the software does and let you know what they can do to make you successful. [Don't worry] about the unknown. They'll worry about the unknown and then you'll be able to work."

For the past 40+ years, RDA Systems has put its emphasis on service first. We build solid ERP Systems especially designed for small school districts, with just what is needed and none of the fluff. We are committed to providing our clients with best-in-class service throughout the entire relationship and know that we are nothing without our clients. Learn more about what we do at <https://rdasystems.com>.

For more information, please contact us at sales@rdasys.com or call us directly at 770-479-7933