

CASE STUDY

ATTENDANCE EQUALS SUCCESS AT WESTBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ATTENDANCE EQUALS SUCCESS AT WESTBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

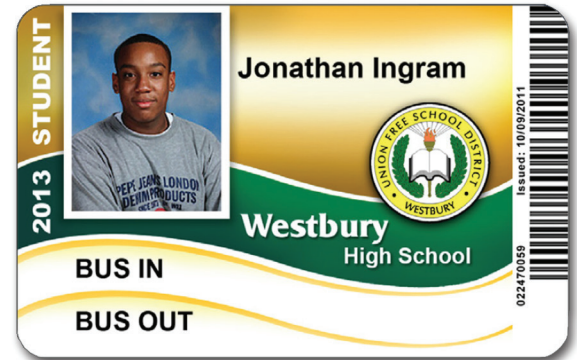
It has been shown that there is a correlation between improved school attendance and higher student success rates. This issue is extremely important in high needs/high risk school districts where a good education is often the gateway to a better life. Westbury Public Schools is a suburban school district outside of New York City with a growing enrollment of approximately 5,000 students and 800 staff members. It is a 98% minority district with over a 90% free and reduced lunch population and 48% ELL (English Language Learners) population.

OVERVIEW

Attendance Kiosks

ScholarChip worked with Westbury Schools to create standalone kiosks. These portable dual screen, dual sensor units are placed at the entrances to both the High School and the Middle School every morning. Students tap their cards or input their ID numbers upon entering the building. This automated process generates a list of late/absent students. The parents are then called by an automated system reporting them as absent; streamlining the process and allowing office staff to focus on other tasks.

The High School kiosk units are then moved to the cafeteria entrance where students again tap their ID cards in order to enter the cafeteria for lunch. If they are not scheduled for lunch that period, their picture will display on the kiosk with an error message indicating that they belong elsewhere. Both the Middle and High Schools use their Kiosks for events that take place in the buildings after school and/or at night. Students tap in to attend a sporting event, dance, concert or any other schoolsponsored program. This adds accountability and control to event-administrators and lets them know who is in the venue for that event.



A major challenge facing the district is a high mobility rate -

approximately 20-25% annually. Students leave the district for weeks or months at a time, presenting a tough reality for administrators, who must encourage students to attend school as much as possible during the school year. One of the ways that Westbury decided to embrace this issue was by using technology to support the process. ScholarChip, a pioneer of centralized and integrated School Safety and Operations Systems, began working with Westbury Schools to implement a system that uses Passive MIFARE (contactless) Smart ID Cards.

These cards were issued to all students and staff and increase student success rates across the entire district. Students and staff are now required to use these cards for a variety of services.

As a result of this ID Card Program, Westbury discovered **student attendance improved dramatically, administrative processes became more streamlined, security increased and teachers had more time for instruction in their classrooms.** Westbury's adoption of ScholarChip's technology is a resounding success.

CASE STUDY

ATTENDANCE EQUALS SUCCESS AT WESTBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

High School Classroom Readers

In New York – as in many states and districts that received Race To The Top Federal Funds – a portion of a Teacher's Evaluation is based on a student's performance on state tests. As a part of this evaluation, these teachers receive that percentage of the student's achievement on the appropriate state exam (ELA, Math, Science, History and Regents). Another requirement of APPR (Annual Professional Performance Review) is to track seat time for all students in order to calculate the percentage of responsibility for each teacher. Westbury installed card readers in every classroom, office, gym, and auditorium to keep more accurate statistics on seat time. Students now tap their cards upon entering the classroom. The teacher's computer screen displays pictures of all the students in that class, and indicates their presence by turning their framed picture from red to green. Students tap out if they leave the class early and tap into the main office/nurse/guidance office, etc.

By incorporating attendance automation using Smart ID cards, Westbury Schools:

- Transferred the responsibility for student attendance to the students, making them more accountable.
- Discovered that the system returned up to four minutes of instruction time per period.
- Increased security by accurately tracking student locations.
- Monitored and reviewed accumulated seat time by teacher for easier reporting.



Hallway Monitor App:
Tap a student ID to verify student location with schedule.

Library, Cafeteria, Hall Monitors

The student ID cards also carry personal schedule information and, at the High School, are checked by hall monitors using mobile devices, which verify that the students are going to the correct class for the correct period.

Door and Elevator Access - Time Clock Station

Staff members use their ID cards to open locked doors to enter school buildings or portable classrooms located on the school grounds. Students with disabilities or injuries use their cards to access building elevators. Facilities staff members use Time Clock Kiosks set up at each building to sign in and out of work, which keep track of their time spent, their current location and also any overtime hours they work.

“SCHOOL CUT RATE
DROPPED BY
80%”

RESULTS

Scholastic Improvement

Prior to instituting ID Cards, Westbury had a high absence rate in the High School as well as a high daily cut rate. Also, students were not succeeding in meeting the requirements for promotion/graduation. After implementation, the cut rate in the High School dropped by approximately 80% in the first year. The district has also seen a decline in the retention rate for High School students based, in part, on improved class attendance.



Classroom
Card Reader

CASE STUDY

ATTENDANCE EQUALS SUCCESS AT WESTBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Accountability and Assessment

With seat time accurately tracked, teachers are held responsible only for the amount of time a student spends in class. With such a high mobility rate in the district, this system ensures that each teacher gets his or her fair portion of the assessment value. As a result, Westbury has seen a steady increase in both achievement levels and graduation rates in the district.

Safety and Security

With school intrusions, abductions and shootings on the rise, Westbury discovered that ScholarChip's system could be a very cost effective way to lock down its buildings. After the Sandy Hook shooting in 2012, the district instructed that all outside doors in all the schools were to be locked. Door sensors were placed on the front doors and parking lot entrance doors throughout the district.

While front doors of each building are open for arrival and dismissal of students, they are locked for the rest of the day and can be opened only by a person with a valid ID Card. This process lets administrators know exactly who is entering the building at any given time, which increases overall security.

In the case of an emergency:

- all doors in a building or across the district can be locked down with a single command. The command can be issued from any wireless device or any computer. This immediacy improves time to action.
- an accurate location report is available on a tablet or computer showing what staff members and students are in the building or buildings, which can help first responders react fast.

Visitor Manager badge issued after state ID or license scan



Visitor Management

Due to rising concern over visitors gaining access to buildings and schools, Westbury elected to set up seven visitor management stations throughout the district using ScholarChip's technology. These stations were put in place with a minimum addition of equipment, and are located at every district building. They are positioned in either the "guard shack" located outside of the building or in the front lobby of each building.

Now, it's easy to keep track of all visitors that come into school buildings. All incoming visitors have their driver's license or state ID card scanned before entry. The system database maintains a list of previous district-wide visitors with his or her time, date, location, and the reason for the last visit. If a visitor has been in the district previously, the system will present a screen to the operator which can be updated. If a visitor is not in the database, the system checks to see if there are any district-defined exclusionary alerts regarding the person, while simultaneously checking for a match against the sexual offender database. If it finds a possible match for either situation, the operator receives an immediate notice and can request additional support if needed, right from the console.



CASE STUDY

ATTENDANCE EQUALS SUCCESS AT WESTBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

If everything comes back clear, the operator can then print out a visitor's pass right from that station. In the case of an emergency, lockdown or otherwise, the district can send an alert from any computer to one or all visitor management stations simultaneously throughout the district, which improves security and response time.

Affordability

- ID cards with passive RFID fits with both students and parents – administrators know where students last tapped in; the district is not tracking their movement through out the building, so privacy is maintained.
- The affordability of contactless cards – the ID Cards are fairly inexpensive to issue, and ScholarChip is on a state agency (BOCES) contract which ensures the best price. Also, a percentage of the purchase in the form of aid to the district is returned on an annual basis.
- The speed of the read – two kiosks at the main door of the high school process over 1000 students in under seven minutes.
- ID Card's non-proprietary nature – school districts can utilize the same ID Cards for other applications, for example, Westbury uses staff ID Cards for controlling printer access and tracks copier usage by person with respect to quantity, color/BW, frequency, etc. This has been found very useful in curtailing personal printing at the district's expense.

- ID Card's inherent security – the data stored on the card is secured with a 64-bit encryption scheme, which is extremely difficult to copy or hack.

- Cloud-based storage – There is no need or costs associated with an on-site server. This also insures that data is accessible from any computer, from any location.

- Cloud-based storage – There is no need or costs associated with an on-site server. This also insures that data is accessible from any computer, from any location.

Where Do We Go From Here?

The gains that Westbury Schools have made in both scholastic achievement and overall attendance have been well worth the commitment and investment made in implementing the ScholarChip system. The district is now considering bus-based attendance using wireless devices. ScholarChip, as a leading supplier of ID card security systems, can help Westbury and school districts across America automate services like student and teacher attendance, school visitor monitoring, cafeteria point-of-sale activities, bus ride tracking and more.



READY FOR SMART ID CARDS?

To learn more and apply for the Smart ID Card Starter Kit subsidy, available through 2016, visit www.smartcardsforschools.com

