

### FAS Suite Automates Fixed Asset Management for the Pittsburgh School District

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, its accounting department must track every piece of inventory in each of the region's 90 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 must 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 the recently-issued Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements 34/35 regulations.

#### Challenges

Each year, Dan Pastorius, 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 District must inventory and track 21,000 fixed assets across 90 remote locations. Needless to say, this involved 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 even janitorial supplies, to name just a few. Pittsburgh even depreciates its food service ovens and coolers.

Its real challenge was to implement a fixed asset system that would 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 to another school that needed it instead of purchasing a new one.

#### Business Partnerships

The District first became a customer of Best Software 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 "Big Five" national accounting firms, recommended Best Software to the school system based on its prior client successes with *FAS*<sup>™</sup>. The District originally implemented a DOS-based version of *FAS*, but 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 then

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#### Type of Organization:

Education

#### Challenge:

The Pittsburgh School District needed an automated system that would more efficiently track fixed assets across multiple locations and generate more accurate reports

#### Solution:

FAS Suite

#### Results:

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

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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 is also planning to adopt an inventory-scanning device to help significantly reduce actual inventory time on site at each school. Users 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 generates different reports, based on information from matched, new and missing items.

## Results

For more than six 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, but 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 will begin using Best Software's new *FAS Gov*<sup>™</sup> solution to comply with GASB Statements 34/35 that require all state and local governments, as well as public colleges and universities nationwide, to inventory, track, value, and depreciate their capital and infrastructure assets starting this year.

And, Pastorius fully expects *FAS* to help the Pittsburgh Public School District move to the head of the class with GASB 34/35 compliance.

## The FAS<sup>™</sup> family includes:

- FASFIRSTSTEP<sup>™</sup>
- FASSUITE<sup>®</sup>
  - FAS Asset Accounting<sup>™</sup>
  - FAS Asset Inventory<sup>™</sup>
  - FAS Report Writer<sup>™</sup>
- FASSUITE for SQL Server
- FASGOV SUITE<sup>®</sup>
  - FAS GOV Asset Accounting<sup>™</sup>
  - FAS GOV Asset Inventory<sup>™</sup>
  - FAS Report Writer<sup>™</sup>
- FASGOV SUITE for SQL Server



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