

How Indianapolis Public Schools prepared 150 administrators for student-based budgeting



This case study describes how Indianapolis Public Schools prepared its school leaders for additional autonomy under a student-based allocation model using Balance Manage.

"I can't begin to express how much Allovue has empowered me to run my department more effectively. I now have immediate access to my financial account status and detail so I can plan for future projects and expenditures."

Laura Larimer,
Information Technology Officer



The Problem

Superintendent Lewis Ferebee introduced reforms to transform Indianapolis Public Schools ("IPS") from a centrally-run bureaucracy to a decentralized portfolio model, with a goal of providing more local control to school principals.

Challenges identified early on were impediments to a successful rollout of additional control:

- Few principals had backgrounds or training on financial management
- Principals could not independently access financial data
- The financial system of record requires specific knowledge and training that was limited to a select few, and produced reports that were not user-friendly

The Solution

Increased autonomy means an increase in questions from principals and a need to build for scalability. With Balance, simple questions that would normally be answered by reaching out to the Central Office could be obtained within 60 seconds. We personalized a solution for IPS, including:

- [Administering the Savvy Survey](#)
- [In-person training](#)
- [Periodic spending reminders](#)

The Results

The benefits realized by IPS through the partnership with Allovue included:



Time Savings

One of the earliest victories from IPS' implementation was a significant improvement in the process to communicate budgets to principals.



Smoother Collaboration between Central Office and Schools

With the same, simplified way to access and share financial information, IPS administrators' interactions improved significantly. Now, every budget owner has immediate access to their budgets and latest spending information.

Next Steps

It's no secret that IPS has a number of major reforms underway, and Allovue is excited to continue to partner with them on this journey. Areas of focus over the next phase of our work include:

- Improving principal access to financial data
- Rollout of Balance Budget
- Addressing opportunities to modernize financial data

Timeline

