

How Indianapolis Public Schools prepared for student-based budgeting

Modernize the financial management system. Train staff to access and analyze user-friendly financial data. In 90 days.

Challenge accepted.

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. Principals would now be held responsible for both annual budget formulation and day-to-day financial management at their schools.

Challenges identified early on included:

- 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

With a personalized solution for IPS that included administering the Savvy Survey, in-person training, and periodic spending reminders, increased autonomy eliminated dependency on a small central office team and resulted in principals having greater confidence in their ability to manage their school's finances.

With Balance, simple questions that would normally be answered by reaching out to the Central Office could be obtained within 60 seconds.

Implementing Balance:



Simplified the budgeting process

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



Improved collaboration between central office and schools

Providing IPS administrators' with access to *Balance* improved collaboration with principals. Now, every budget owner has immediate access to their budgets and latest spending information.

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

District Highlights	
Student Enrollment	31,820
Number of Schools	74
Employees	4,478
State	Indiana
ERP	MUNIS

Timeline

