



**By innovating its procurement process,
El Paso ISD is bringing dollars back its
classrooms *and* its community.**



EL PASO
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT



LOCATION

El Paso, Texas



CAMPUSES

85



STUDENTS

54,000



ERP

ERP

54,000



ELSA SAVINGS

1ST 6 MO.

\$44,000

When Ron Gatlin was appointed Executive Director of Procurement and School Resources at the El Paso Independent School District (ISD), he quickly realized the district's need to transform procurement into a more user-friendly and efficient process. Gatlin had heard about emerging technology that could help simplify and control spend and expedite shopping, while also complying with Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) and other state purchasing requirements. Gatlin's required features for the new platform were:

- Easy implementation
- Punchout capabilities
- Multiple catalogs for EDGAR compliance
- A one-stop-shop
- The ability to identify local suppliers

SOLUTION

Gatlin and colleague Leticia Rivera (Assistant Purchasing Director of

Procurement and School Resources), took the lead in innovating El Paso ISD's outdated procurement process. Their first step was to implement an electronic bidding system along with a K-12 enterprise resource planning (ERP) software, "TEAMS by Frontline," for organizational management. Their next step was to integrate EqualLevel's procure-to-pay solution to further extend their ERP system.

RESULTS

"This eliminates several steps and immensely speeds up the process."

With the help of EqualLevel, Gatlin and Rivera created a procure-to-pay marketplace that offers a single, seamless

platform to facilitate all processes associated with the shop-order-pay transaction. By eliminating any maverick spending and ensuring that the staff is only working with approved contracts, the district can demonstrate that they are being fiscally responsible with public funds. "Our staff can now go in and shop for what they want, push a button and it automatically turns into a requisition. They no longer have to type in the description, specs, or pricing and can be ensured that all of those details are accurate and compliant," said Gatlin. "This eliminates several steps and immensely speeds up the process."

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE Fewer purchase order changes and less invoice reconciliation.
- LOCAL SUPPLIERS EqualLevel's marketplace was able to integrate more local suppliers, enabling El Paso ISD to support the community in which they work and live.
- MORALE "Before I joined, the purchasing department was viewed as slowing down the process. Now campus staff is happy to have a more streamlined and efficient procurement process in place."
- COVID-19 READY When the need arose to work remotely, procurement staff were able to continue their operations without interruption.

SAVINGS

The El Paso ISD has also integrated the EqualLevel Savings Advisor (ELSA). ELSA is powered by artificial intelligence to automatically optimize spending and comparison shop punchout items to identify the best savings. In the first six months that ELSA was in use, the district saved \$44,000.

"By implementing the marketplace and ELSA, we have saved enough money to pay for the technology and put additional dollars back into the classroom."

LETICIA RIVERA, El Paso ISD



"We are getting the best savings on products that are EDGAR compliant."

We went from horse and buggy to the Starship Enterprise."

LETICIA RIVERA, El Paso ISD

"The campus staff loves it. They can go into the marketplace and shop for whatever they want in the online store and know that they are getting the best savings on products that are EDGAR compliant," said Rivera. "We went from horse and buggy to the Starship Enterprise."

CONCLUSION

Digitizing the procure-to-pay process has put El Paso ISD at the forefront of public procurement. Not only has it improved its complete purchasing process and the support provided to their campuses and classrooms immensely, it is allowing El Paso ISD to deliver efficient and effective management of its funding.

EqualLevel