

# Kenmore – Town of Tonawanda UFSD Uses 5Cast™ to Execute a More Comprehensive Long Range Financial Plan

## THE SITUATION

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District, commonly shortened to “Ken-Ton,” is located in northern Erie County along the Niagara River. The district enjoys a rich history and is known for its innovative framework of mentoring, coaching, and staff development that has fostered a world-class teaching staff.



**ORGANIZATION TYPE**  
K-12 Public School

**ENROLLMENT**  
7,000

**ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET**  
\$164M

The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District is the second largest suburban District in the Buffalo, New York area. They have a total of nine buildings which include two high schools and two middle schools. The district enjoys a rich history that dates back more than 125 years and a legacy of educational distinction.

For John J. Brucato, Assistant Superintendent of Finance at Ken-Ton, it was cumbersome and confusing to execute a long range financial plan. The process of collecting, analyzing, and updating multiple spreadsheets of data made it difficult to ensure accuracy in communicating the district’s financial situation to the Board of Education and the community. The administration team was making do with what they had, but quickly realized that there had to be a better way to organize and present their data. They were in search for a product that was versatile and user friendly; something more than just a spreadsheet.

## THE SOLUTION

In 2016, John Brucato attended a New York State Association of School Business Officials (NYSASBO) workshop in Albany. He had the opportunity to learn how schools across the country are leveraging the financial forecasting and budgeting tool, 5Cast™ and peer data comparison tool, 5Sight™ to support operational and strategic decision making. Connecting with Senior Analytics Advisor, Heather Taylor, John was instantly impressed with the possibilities that 5Sight and 5Cast could offer to Ken-Ton schools and three months later, he was on board as a user.

When asked what he values most as a user, he shared, “5Cast’s versatility is paramount. Being able to tweak anything from a single budget line to an entire program code allows us to create any type of financial model we need. The product team is always releasing new features and more importantly, bases those features off our customer feedback. Knowing that having a conversation with our rep will most likely result in a product enhancement is unlike any other company I’ve worked with. The support team is always willing to assist and listen, helping every step along the way.”

## THE RESULTS

### What are your key measurable results?

“Using 5Cast, we’ve been able to produce a comprehensive, yet understandable long range financial plan for our Board of Education and community. Pivoting from a traditional spreadsheet, we’ve turned our plan into more of a narrative that explains the purpose of a long range financial plan while walking the reader through each aspect that affects the district’s financial health and future. We’ve received positive feedback from our Board and community regarding the plan, citing its clarity and ease of understanding.”

### What are the projects and daily tasks you are using Forecast5 tools for?

“Currently, we’ve used 5Cast and 5Sight for our long range financial planning. This is assisting us in planning for our next capital project and putting a realistic lens on what the district will be able to afford. We are starting to build new models as contract negotiations are coming up. We’re excited to see how 5Cast and 5Sight will assist us at the bargaining table with our staff. We’re also looking

forward to increased usage of 5Sight and comparing achievement and financial data between districts in New York State.”

### What do you like most about the products and services you are using?

“The ease of use has been a major factor in our satisfaction with the products offered. The interface is intuitive and the support team is always willing to go the extra mile to assist when needed. The features of the product are also what makes it stand apart from the competition. We’re able to create any kind of model and corresponding report that we need to best interpret our data.”

### Do you have any tips for others considering Forecast5 Analytics tools?

“Don’t be afraid to jump in with both feet. The product support team are incredible with assisting their clients along the way. Once familiar with the product, you’ll be glad you have it! There is such a vast amount of insight by way of using Forecast5’s products, it will be difficult to rely on regular spreadsheets!”