

# Beaverton School District Drills into Peer Comparison Data to Guide Decisions & Help Better Communicate Their Story to Stakeholders



Organization Type:  
K-12 Public School

Enrollment:  
41,000

Annual Operating Budget:  
\$488M

Location:  
Beaverton, OR

Beaverton School District is nationally recognized for its high student and staff achievement and innovative programs. Beaverton is the third largest school district in Oregon with 53 schools, more than 41,000 students and almost 5,000 talented staff. Beaverton schools provide outstanding and challenging educational opportunities that prepare students to be college and career ready.

## THE SITUATION

Beaverton School District is the third largest school district in Oregon and serves over 41,000 students across 53 schools. The District takes pride in their ability to provide staff and students an empowering educational experience. For Jessica Jones, Budget Analyst at Beaverton, it was difficult to communicate and present the District's student and financial information to stakeholders. It was a challenge to create visualizations and only have Excel to leverage. Jones was determined to find a tool that allowed the team to conduct peer district analyses, build monthly and annual budgets, forecast financial positions, and enhance transparency initiatives.

## THE SOLUTION

Jones first heard about Forecast5™ from members of the Oregon Association of School Business Officials. OASBO members strongly encouraged districts to learn about the Forecast5 decision support suite, as they saw the value in leveraging visual analytics. Soon after connecting with Forecast5, Beaverton became a user of the peer comparison tool, 5Sight™, multi-year budgeting and forecasting tool, 5Cast™, and monthly budgeting tool, 5Cast™ Plus. The ability for Beaverton to compare their data against similar districts has allowed the team to easily locate outliers and improve information being reported. The ease of finding comparable data and creating visualizations to support school and district-wide analyses was the solution Beaverton was seeking.

## THE RESULTS

Beaverton was one of the founding districts in Oregon to become a Forecast5 subscriber. The administrative team has since fully tapped into the tools to support various project areas. Using 5Sight, their team drilled into their data and discovered they were reporting selected staff

“OUR DATA REPORTS ARE VERY WELL RECEIVED FROM OUR BOARD, BUDGET COMMITTEE, AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION. WE HAVE RAISED THE LEVEL OF TRANSPARENCY AND UNDERSTANDING.”

— Jessica Jones, Budget Analyst

information differently than other districts in the state. 5Sight allowed Beaverton to identify this problem, which initiated discussions on how to go about fixing it. Beyond this project, the team is using the tools to produce School Summary and Benchmark Data pages in their Annual Budget presentation. They are using 5Cast for their 2019-2020 zero-based budgeting process and to execute monthly and multi-year forecasts. 5Sight is regularly being used to compare financial data to similar districts in the state. Analytics and reports have enhanced communication and understanding.

Beaverton has set the bar high for their district and within the state of Oregon. They truly understand the power of using data visualizations for uncovering and communicating a district’s financial story. For those considering Forecast5 Analytics, Jones says “Just get in and give it a try! It’s so worth it!”