

Clarkston School District Accesses Entire Forecast5 Product Suite for Enhanced Decision-Making



Organization Type:
K-12 Public School

Enrollment:
2,700

Annual Operating Budget:
Over \$23 Million

Clarkston School District offers a full spectrum of educational opportunities. Clarkston High School boasts state and national award-winning programs in DECA, FCCLA, FFA, JROTC, marching band and science. Their mission is: Be Valued, Be Inspired, Be Resourceful, Be Together.

THE SITUATION

Located on the Washington-Idaho border, Clarkston offers the benefits of small-town living coupled with access to world-class outdoor recreation. The district pursues excellence and has been recognized multiple times as a School of Distinction by the State of Washington. To steadily improve and meet their goals, the administrative team was in search of a tool that would allow them to compare student achievement data with other districts in the state. In addition, they wanted to gain a better understanding of their enrollment boundaries at various school building levels.

“UNTIL WE WERE INTRODUCED TO THE FORECAST5 PALETTE OF SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, WE HAD NOT UNCOVERED THE REMEDY FOR COMPARING OUR SCHOOLS. WE CAN NOW MOVE BEYOND TALKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM.”

— Wendy Rimmelspacher, Executive Director for Financial Services

THE SOLUTION

Clarkston first heard about Forecast5™ when members of the Washington ASBO Board returned from the ASBO International Conference in 2016. The Board members were intrigued by what they heard at the Conference regarding data visual analytics and shortly after, invited Forecast5 to present at their upcoming board meeting. Wendy Rimmelspacher, Executive Director for Financial Services at Clarkston, attended the meeting and was quickly impressed with the data and peer comparison tool, 5Sight™. The ease of finding comparable data to support school and district wide analyses was the solution Clarkston was seeking.

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THE RESULTS

Using 5Sight, Clarkston could identify similar districts in Washington and compare data, allowing the district to gain a historical perspective on key areas, such as student performance. Having access to this data in customizable visuals and board ready reports has enhanced stakeholder engagement. To gain insights into the diversity of the district's Elementary School boundary lines, the team began leveraging 5Maps™. Beyond 5Sight, the district has expanded their subscription to include the budgeting and forecasting tool, 5Cast™ and monthly reporting tool, 5Cast™ *Plus*. 5Cast has allowed Clarkston to accurately build multi-year financial forecasts and project certificated teacher salaries. In addition, the tool continues to allow Clarkston to meet the Washington mandate requiring schools to submit a detailed and high-level four-year budget. When asked about her experience using the Forecast5 tools, Wendy shares, "This software is so much fun to work in that I forget I am working!"