



FREEPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT

FREEPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT USES SMART FLEET MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY FOR MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

Customer:
Freeport School District

Industry:
Pupil

Location:
Freeport, IL

District Enrollment:
4,314

School District Impact:

Zonar helped the Freeport School District achieve:

- Double the return on technology investment in Medicaid reimbursements alone
- Accurate and secure student rider tracking

Zonar Solutions Involved:

- Zonar Z Pass®
- Zonar V3™ telematics solution

“Z Pass has provided us with a level of security and confidence I didn’t know was possible. With Zonar as our partner we are able to ensure that our students are safe and accounted for while also utilizing the technology to decrease our overall cost by accurately and seamlessly submitting and receiving Medicaid reimbursement funds for the transportation of our special needs children.”

– Dallas Pieper, Director of Enrollment & Transportation, Freeport School District

SCHOOL DISTRICT CHALLENGE

Serving 11 schools with 2,133 students eligible for transportation, Freeport School District (FSD) sought to decrease operating costs and maximize cost reimbursement opportunities to be good community stewards and fiscally responsible. As part of that objective, the district noted the availability of Medicaid reimbursement for transporting eligible special needs students to offset the cost of transportation services.

FSD had previously completed its Medicaid accounting on paper by monitoring and tallying eligible student ridership via checkboxes on the forms. This process was time-consuming and made it hard to accurately capture the data needed let alone verify it wasn’t being manipulated or “pencil whipped.” The paper-based method also led to error-prone claims and payback issues. FSD determined the process was too much work paired with the risk of audit for the returns they were receiving and discontinued the program.

Hesitant to invest in a process that had not worked, FSD took a hard look at what they already had in place, including the Z Pass system from Zonar. FSD acquired the Z Pass system with funds they received from a Zonar Don Carnahan / NAPT grant in 2009.

Z Pass is an RFID card-based student tracking system that allows schools to know the time, date and location of a student’s entry and exit from a bus in real time. Each card has a unique, secure student identifier, which enables FSD officials to have real-time child checks delivering peace of mind regarding where students are. Noting the unique student identifier capabilities of Z Pass, FSD decided to its Z Pass data work even smarter for it with Zonar’s integrated reporting. With Z Pass, FSD eliminated the complexities and audit risk associated with manual reporting and let the system do the heavy lifting. Medicaid reporting for FSD is easy now with Z Pass, and FSD has produced a reimbursement revenue stream that more than pays for their Zonar solution.

SOLUTION AND RESULTS

Deploying Zonar smart fleet management technologies including the Zonar V3 and Z Pass the Freeport School District has:

- **Streamlined access to Medicaid reimbursement:** Z Pass made access to \$500-\$1,000/year reimbursement opportunity for Medicaid eligible students with an Individual Education Plans (IEP) easy while eliminating the complexities and audit risk associated with manual reporting.
- **Doubled ROI in Zonar smart fleet solution:** FSD’s Zonar solution which is used across its school bus fleet is generating \$40K alone in Medicaid reimbursements, more than covering the \$20K cost for the technology.
- **Reduced reporting time:** Medicaid reporting requirements went from a one week/month process to 10 minutes of work annually (2-3 minutes per quarter) to submit.

For more information about Zonar solutions, visit: <http://www.zonarsystems.com>

For more information about the Freeport School District, visit: <http://www.fsd145.org/>

CALL ZONAR TOLL-FREE:
877-843-3847