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## **Transitioning from SEMS to SmartFindExpress** **Case Study: St. Johns County Saves Resources with SmartFindExpress**

St. Johns County School District – one of the best performing districts in the State of Florida – has been an eSchool Solutions client for over a decade. During this time, they’ve come to rely on eSchool Solutions as a partner, committed to improving the district’s operational efficiency by automating substitute management and, more recently, staff development.

“We are pleased with the performance of eSchool Solutions’ products and customer service. Thanks to their substitute management solution, SEMS – and now SmartFindExpress – we can automate a time-consuming process. As a result, we haven’t had to hire additional HR personnel,” explained Cathy Geiger, the district’s human resources director.

At St. Johns – a district with more than 1,800 teachers – one system operator manages the entire substitute management process. According to Geiger: “We rarely have a classroom without a sub. Our fill rate averages between 96% and 99%.”

That means fewer lost learning days ... and more time devoted to student achievement. District personnel believe SmartFindExpress is the best substitute management tool for two reasons. First, the system allows for teachers to pre-arrange a job with a substitute. Additionally, the flexible parameter settings enable substitutes to teach subjects they know in the location of their choice.

“It’s a win-win situation for the students. Substitutes are better prepared to lead a classroom when they are comfortable with their surroundings and the subject area they’re being asked to teach,” explained Geiger. “The result is a day of learning, instead of a day of chaos.”

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A long-time SEMS customer, St. Johns County School District briefly considered making the leap to SmartFindExpress when the new product was first launched; however, they decided to squeeze a couple more years out of SEMS.

“We had used SEMS for 12 years. This year, we decided it was time to take advantage of the latest technology,” explained Geiger. “We’ve had such a positive experience with eSchool Solutions, so the decision was simple for us. We knew we wanted to stay with them and switch to SmartFindExpress.”

The transition went smoothly. eSchool Solutions’ training team spent time with the district’s technical group – ensuring that the movement of phone lines and data was handled properly. In addition, the company made sure the district understood the differences between the two products and how to use the additional SmartFindExpress feature functionality. On the morning of May 12, the district was still using SEMS ... by the afternoon, SmartFindExpress was live.

“I was nervous when we first started – after all, this was a big change for us. But I was so pleased with how well everything went and eSchool Solutions’ responsiveness,” Geiger said. “I’d recommend that districts on SEMS switch to SmartFindExpress. Don’t be afraid. Just do it!”