Bays' Broadcast

From Superintendent Sherri L. Bays, Ed.D.

"It is the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) that those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed."

– Charles Darwin

April 22, 2019

I hope you, like me, had an opportunity to spend precious time with family and friends over the Easter Break. The smiles on my grandbabies faces when they found those eggs, and the goodies inside, was absolutely priceless.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you that next year we will be transitioning from TxEIS to Skyward. I am going to be very honest, change of any sort is difficult and painful. However, even though there will be initial challenges with learning a new program, we believe Skyward will be more user friendly for all of our stakeholders. Let me explain why.....

Floresville ISD began using the TxEIS information system in the 2012-2013 school year and, at the time, was a vast improvement. Over the last six years, the program has changed very little and we found ourselves purchasing more third party programs to meet the needs of our growing district. When ESC 20 announced plans to replace TxEIS, we took the opportunity to research other data management products. We narrowed the field to two software packages and formed a committee of various stakeholders to fully evaluate each product. The committee's recommendation was that Skyward was the best option. A final pricing evaluation also showed Skyward to be more cost effective than every other option, including staying with TxEIS. Some of the notable improvements are:

- Personalized Dashboards – You can create live tiles on your custom homepage that update dynamically and click to drill down
- Single Sign On – One username and password to remember & far fewer websites to visit
- Improved Data Integrity – Parent contact information is stored just once across all schools and students
- Improved Efficiency – Data entered for online registration is done natively inside the program instead of PEIMS clerks entering it by hand
- Real Time Access – With fewer third party programs, data is all stored together. There is no lag for records to update
- Health Information will be available from within gradebook
- Powerful Custom Reporting

Skyward is a completely web-based program that meets the existing core needs of business and student management including Payroll, Purchasing, Budget, Finance, Scheduling, Gradebook, and Attendance. Unlike TxEIS, it also includes the functions of Online Registration, Time clocks, Health, Records, and Leave into the application natively. This means better data integrity, improved efficiency, lower cost of ownership, and more timely access to data.

The implementation consists of three phases - consulting, migration, and training. We are quickly approaching the end of the consulting phase and the data migrations will begin after the school year is over. When we all return from summer break, the last phase of training will begin.

Stay positive - the light is at the end of the tunnel! I hope you had a GREAT Monday!　　　SLB