

JGI - Business Intelligence Services Supporting Little Rock School District (LRSD)

JGI Participates in a Project that Concludes an Important Chapter in the History of the Civil Rights Movement

In the summer of 1957, the city of Little Rock, AR made plans to desegregate its public schools. Little Rock felt it could break down the barriers of segregation in its school system with a carefully developed program. But, as history illustrates, the smooth transition to integration was not to be. At one point, the integration efforts even required President Eisenhower to dispatch the 101st Airborne Div. to enforce the U.S. Supreme Court's order striking down racial segregation in public schools after then Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus tried to prevent black students, thereafter known as the Little Rock Nine, from enrolling at Central High School - Sparking one of the most dramatic watermarks of the civil rights era.

50 years later, the landmark Supreme Court decision remained an issue in the Little Rock School District (LRSD).

In 1998, LRSD was still making efforts to gain unitary status by the Federal Government. "Unitary" is a term courts use to describe a school system that has made the transition from a segregated or "racially dual" system to a desegregated or "unitary" system. In order to gain unitary status, LRSD voluntarily agreed to enter into the **Revised Desegregation and Education Plan**. As part of this plan, LRSD was required to annually assess and improve the effectiveness of academic programs developed to enhance African-American achievement in the 27,000 student district.

To facilitate these efforts, JGI was selected by LRSD to create reporting solutions to verify and track progress of both students and teachers, in realizing these goals of: Student performance; Teacher qualifications; Community involvement and Expenditures per student throughout the entire school district.

JGI developed reports and analytics, that fall under various categories, that LRSD needed to document and analyze in order to gain unitary compliance. The various data is categorized by:

- Student Demographic and Performance
- Teacher Demographic and Performance
- Budget and Finance
- Community Involvement

To optimize the analysis of this data, JGI developed various methods to deliver the data:

- Dashboards - There are multiple analytics in each of the above mentioned categories.
- Customized WEBI Reports
- Crystal Reports - JGI created and published over 150 reports.
- Pre-developed WEBI Reports
- Pre-developed OLAP Intelligence Reports (mainly Student Performance data)

JGI's efforts were instrumental in the design and development of the data warehouse, implementation of Business Objects, user training, report writing, and providing direction for the overall efforts of LRSD's Business Intelligence System. Specific mention must go to Larry Naeyaert, Gary Kuertzel, and Nalan Mitchell of the JGI - Business Intelligence team. Their expertise and tireless efforts were paramount to the success of this project.

In February 2007, the Honorable William R. Wilson, United States District Court, Eastern Arkansas declared that LRSD is in complete compliance with his Court Ordered Plan to desegregate the District and provide educational services to all students regardless of race, and that LRSD acted in good faith to remove racial barriers, and had earned their release from court supervision.

The recent decision is a direct result of the detail and experience shown in the reporting solutions developed by JGI. Further confirmation of the importance of the work delivered by JGI is proven by the fact that our own Larry Naeyaert offered testimony during various phases of the case. Much of the testimony of this trial revolved around the creation and use of a Data Warehouse and Business Objects Software.

Rarely can a business service organization like JGI look back on a successful project and see the true scope and importance of their efforts. Since the mid 1950s, the mention of Little Rock, AR brought with it images of constitutional crisis and civil disruption. Hopefully, this will help to transition those images to thoughts of opportunity, hope and potential. And maybe, JGI had a little bit to do with that.