# MANAGE EDUCATION ASSETS



# **Ensure Opportunity for All Students**

"Opportunity is who we are. And the defining project of our generation is to restore that promise."

- President Barack Obama (The President's 2015 Budget Proposal for Education, 2014)



WASP BARCODE TECHNOLOGIES

# CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Providing Technology to Today's Digital Learners	3
A Solid Foundation	
Challenge	4
Education Spending by Area	4
Managing after Purchase	5
Decision	6
The MobileAsset.EDU Solution	6
MobileAsset.EDU Benefits	7
CTO/CIO	8
Obstacles	8
MobileAsset Success	8
Finance	9
Obstacles	9
MobileAsset Success	
Bibliography	10

# INTRODUCTION

# **Providing Technology to Today's Digital Learners**

Receiving a 21st century education means preparing students for a global workplace; this cannot be accomplished in a classroom isolated from technology. Engaged and connected educators are on the forefront demanding classroom resources that place current technology into the hands of their students. Local communities, state organizations, and the federal government have listened. Fantastic programs are available for educators, individual schools, and entire districts (below are just three):

- Race to the Top
- ESEA Flexibility
- ConnectEDucators

"Our school needs to continue to develop the chances for all students to have access to technology tools with a 1:1 program. This will allow all students to be connected and give students an opportunity to grow in the ever-changing global society." **SpeakUp, 2013** 

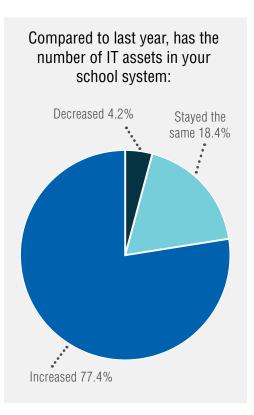
These programs create high expectations: increased teacher effectiveness and increased student achievement with results measured by standardized assessments, graduation rates, and post-secondary admission's rates. Limited tech budgets mean difficult choices must be made—money invested in infrastructure and devices means little is left over to manage the physical assets.

# A Solid Foundation

Although the traditional concept of education constantly evolves as technology advances, there are some educational standards that will continue to vie for budget dollars. Monies allocated for newer technology will be a wasted investment if these fundamentals are deferred or ignored.

To name a few:

- desks & chairs
- textbooks
- phones
- extra-curricular equipment
- vehicles

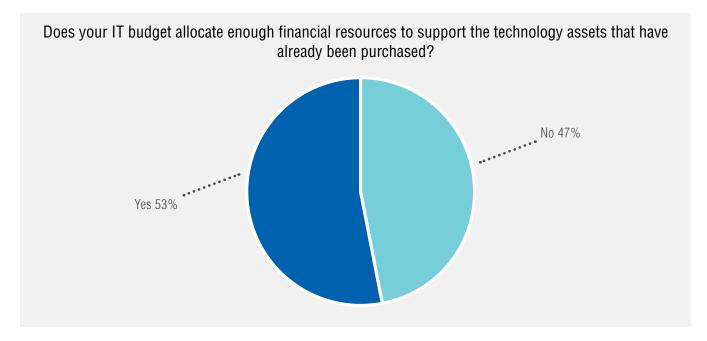


The Obama administration requested \$68.6 billion in discretionary appropriations for the Department of Education in 2015—an increase of \$1.3 billion over 2014 and \$3 billion over 2013. **President's FY 2015 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Education, 2014** 

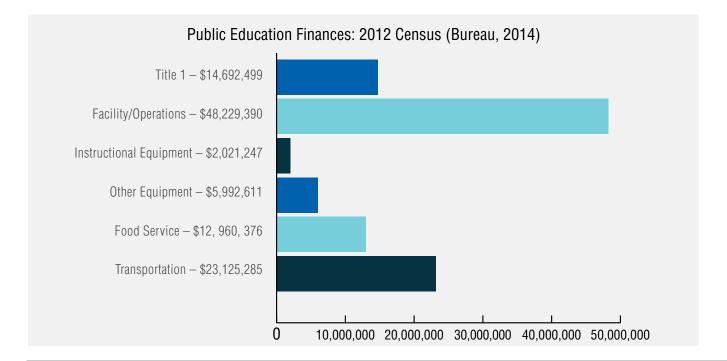
# CHALLEN(GE

## **Education Spending by Area**

We invest in education because we recognize and understand its importance. A quality education includes engaged leaders and educators, challenging subject matter, high standards and high expectations. Additionally, provided resources must be distributed equitably. Designated funds should improve, enhance, compliment, and ensure learning success.



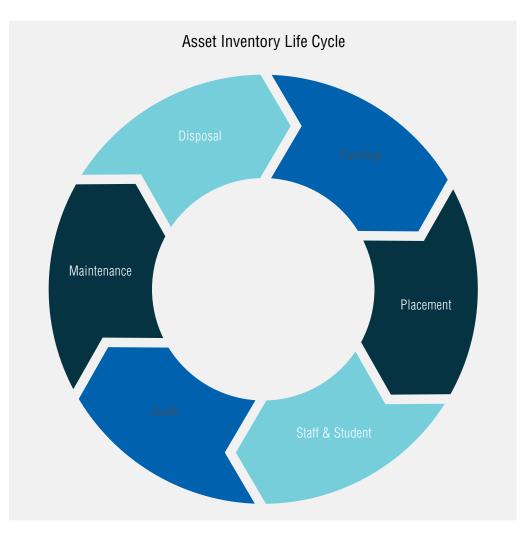
Allocating money (whether local, state, or federal) should not be the end goal. However, considerable time and effort is spent seeking money and then determining how those funds are distributed to various departments and programs. Often, these disbursements become a game of shifting priorities and, once purchases are made, very little time and money is left over to appropriately manage school and district assets.



Free US Based Tech Support For The Life Of The Product = Free Getting Started Training = 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee

### Managing after Purchase

Regardless of funding source, purchased equipment should be tracked from initial receipt to eventual disposal—the asset's traceable lifecycle. An asset management system should allow users the ability to detail and retrieve relevant asset data whenever needed. Unfortunately, many schools and districts continue to use tracking methods that are dated, cumbersome, or simplistic add-on modules to a library inventory program. Some include only budget requests and purchase orders; others consist only of purchase records. As a result of poor (or non-existent) procedures, it can be a significant challenge for schools to identify when items are broken, lost, replaced, or stolen.



Additionally, if schools receive either state or federal funding, they are required to account for very specific asset details in order to maintain funding compliance. Continuing to use an outdated method for tracking asset information, puts schools at significant risk of losing much needed financing. Implementing an automated system helps schools account for the following details:

- What equipment is on the premises?
- Where is the equipment located?
- What funds were used to purchase specific equipment?
- Has the equipment been properly maintained?
- How does current inventory compare with expected/budgeted inventory?
- Who is using the equipment?

Obsolete methods leave an already limited and stretched staff following a labor intensive process that is ultimately difficult to reconcile and nearly impossible to demonstrate audit compliance.

# **]]=(]]**[**3**[()]]

## The MobileAsset.EDU Solution

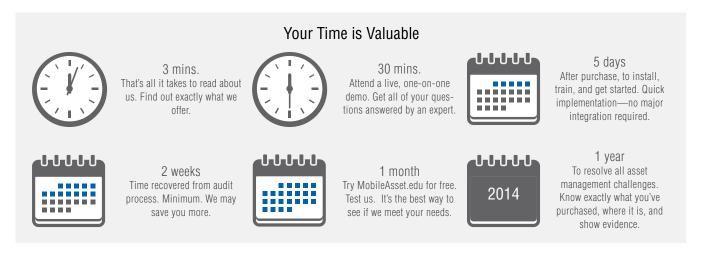
#### Funding

MobileAsset.EDU keeps track of all asset purchasing details: purchase order number, funding source, cost, purchase date, and depreciation method. Create funding sources to separate all awarded amounts and always know the exact total spent and current remaining funds.

*"It is a big deal to make sure grant dollars are being spent properly. If something is purchased with special education dollars, it has to physically stay in the special education department. MobileAsset.EDU makes it easy to manage assets by funding source." Jason Garrison, Miami Public Schools* 

#### Placement

Find each and every asset whenever needed. Items are assigned an identifier (the barcode) when received and added to Mobile-Asset.EDU. Every time the item is moved to a new physical location (office, classroom, or library), the barcode is scanned and the movement is recorded. Additionally, the user performing the move is connected to the record. You will always know the asset location and who has moved the item.



#### Staff & Student

Check-out assets to either students or staff. Know exactly who has the item, where it's located, and the assigned date of return. If the asset isn't returned by the date set, MobileAsset.EDU generates an email alert sent to both the system user and to the individual with the item. When returned by staff or student, simply check-in.

MobileAsset eliminated asset loss and reduced annual audit time by 93% districtwide, from 480 hours auditing equipment to just 36 hours. **Miami Public Schools** 

#### Audit

Perform annual audits to verify asset details: location, departmental use, check-out/check-in status, and current condition. MobileAsset.EDU guarantees your school and district can provide all funding compliance data when required—never placing your school in danger of losing funds or of forced repayment of money already spent.

#### Maintenance

MobileAsset.EDU guarantees you get the most out of your purchases. Schedule routine maintenance:

- Bulb replacements
- Computer re-imaging
- Inspections
- Oil changes

Record when the assigned task is completed or receive an email alert if not recorded by the due date. By tracking completed maintenance (whether scheduled or unscheduled) you take advantage of any warranties or service agreements included with the item purchased. Knowing the amount of money used to maintain and repair your assets provides historical data needed to determine future budgetary needs as well as total cost of ownership.

#### Disposal

Tracking assets is a significant responsibility for any school or district. Detailed information about purchase, maintenance, and physical disposition of assets is required for state and federal grant compliance. MobileAsset.EDU makes the recording of these details possible and ensures solid asset procedures are developed and followed for each asset's life cycle.

Asset disposal should be handled in a timely and responsible fashion. While it may seem difficult to properly dispose of a physical asset, it can be equally dangerous to have non-functioning equipment in storage or simply sitting around your school. A better solution is to assess your physical assets on a regular basis and to properly dispose of any and all obsolete equipment quickly. After disposal, you will have a full transactional record of the asset's lifecycle.

Being able to accurately account for the equipment will eliminate having to repurchase equipment that has been lost or misplaced; the replacement money comes from the school's funds. There are much better things we can use the money for than replacing technology we own but can't find. **Erskine Vanderbilt, West Briar Middle School** 

### The MobileAsset.EDU Solution

By its very nature, asset tracking is a never-ending process; selecting a system that is easy-to-implement and easy-to-use guarantees continued use by the staff and ensures data accuracy and integrity. MobileAsset.EDU is built specifically with the end user in mind. Its design is intuitive and provides all of your school or district's needed functionality; including mobility. Manage assets whenever and wherever it's convenient by simply purchasing a device license, downloading the app, and then completing common management tasks, including: asset creation, check-in and out, disposal, and audit.

Schools that have transitioned to an automated asset management system have found that the unique challenges they face – money, compliance, and time – are easily overcome and the long-term benefits have significant impact on both staff and students.

# (**H** ( )/(**H** ( )

### Obstacles

#### 1) Tight, restricted, or limited budgets

66% of schools are experiencing stagnant or decreasing budgets. To overcome budgetary restrictions, coordinators are delaying the purchase of replacements or postponing maintenance upgrades. Unfortunately, these methods have the potential for poor performance or for complete disruption of student learning.

#### 2) Decreased staff

72% of schools report a freeze or decrease in staffing. Limited staff only exacerbates budget problems—especially when asked to manage higher numbers of technology equipment.

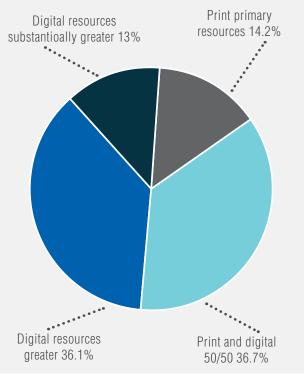
#### 3) Increased IT assets

77.4 % of schools report that the number of IT assets increased again. This increase in assets is due in part to districts purchasing devices for 1:1 initiatives and for online assessments.

#### 4) Changed culture

66% of schools report the changing culture of teaching is a significant challenge for technology departments. The three, previous items are obstacles in a school's transition to a digital world of education. Especially when 83% predict that digital resources will make up more than 50% of education materials within the next three years.

To what degree do you expect print instruction materials to be replaced by digital materials over the next 3 years in your district? Rate 1-5. 1 - Not at all to 5 substantial.



"Our nation's schools must ensure that they have technology leaders who are able to align how students learn today with what will be expected of them in the future they'll inherit." **Lewis & Gray, 2009** 

### **MobileAsset Success**

"Tracking assets and equipment age across numerous campuses was arduous. We needed a standardized process that was simple to implement and would decrease the complexity of asset tracking and audits. Other software cost twice as much as MobileAsset and was not the best match for our needs." Nishae Brooks, System Administrator.

Lone Star College System (LSCS) needed an efficient, accurate way to track IT assets. Time-intensive annual audits consumed hundreds of hours of productivity. MobileAsset helped LSCS quickly create a searchable catalog of IT assets. The school was able to instantly track down specific assets, assess depreciation and determine total value.

# FINANCE

### Obstacles

Data accuracy is arguably the greatest challenge facing your school or district's financial department. Once money is allocated and then budgeted, every purchase must be tracked.

If your asset records are not accurate, your balance sheet will be incorrect. This can be extremely detrimental, especially where depreciation and taxation are concerned. Fixed asset reporting is an intrinsic part of the balance sheet, and inaccurate asset documentation implies there is an issue with overall validity.

If your school's asset listing is considerably different than what is detailed (either in a software program or on paper reports), there is a significant problem with the process of managing your assets.

Educational institutions are required to keep accurate reports for a variety of reasons and all need to classify and track asset details by funding source or grant. Incorrect reporting can be incredibly problematic with the potential of losing or repaying funds.

Many studies have been conducted concerning the accuracy of spreadsheets. "For example, in 2007, researchers from Tucks School of Business at Dartmouth College found that 64 percent of 25 financial spreadsheets it audited contained errors. Of those spreadsheets with errors, they found ten had an error exceeding \$100,000, six over \$10 million, and one in excess of \$100 million." Panko, 2008

### **MobileAsset Success**

" By using MobileAsset, we are saving ourselves countless hours of unnecessary work; now, we don't have to enter in any information manually." Nathan Miller, UIEMSSIO

The University of Iowa Emergency Medical Services Student Interest Organization (UIEMSSIO) is dedicated to emergency response, first aid, and other campus wellness programs like substance abuse prevention. UIEMSSIO owns reusable assets (mannequins and computers) that must be tracked due to all funds coming from the government. The organization needed an effective way to manage the physical location, utility, and maintenance schedule of all assets.

By implementing MobileAsset, UIEMSSIO has saved both time and effort tracking assets; additionally, they are confident the data entered is accurate and up-to-date.

# **BBLOGRAPHY**

Bureau, U. C. (2014). Public Education Finances: 2012. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

- ConnectEDucators: Leveraging Technology in the Classroom. (2014). Retrieved September 9, 2014, from U.S. Department of Education: http://www.ed.gov/connecteducators
- COSN. (2014). IT Leadership Survey. Retrieved September 5, 2014, from COSN Leading Education Innovation: http://www.cosn.org/focus-areas/it-management/it-leadership-survey
- DreamBox Learning. (2014, July 1). Education Week Whitepapers. Retrieved September 5, 2014, from Edweek.org: http://www.edweek.org/ew/marketplace/whitepapers/white-papers.html
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act. (2014, August 21). Retrieved September 9, 2014, from U.S. Department of Education: http://www.ed.gov/esea
- Lewis, & Gray. (2009). Educational Technology in Public School Districts. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).
- Panko, R. R. (2008). What We Know About Spreadsheet Errors. Honolulu: Journal of End User Computing's.
- President's FY 2015 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Education. (2014, March 4). Retrieved September 5, 2014, from U.S. Department of Education: http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget15/index.html
- Race to the Top. (2014, March 25). Retrieved September 9, 2014, from U.S. Department of Education: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/index.html
- SpeakUp. (2013, April). From Chalkboards to Tablets: The Digital Conversion of the K-12 Classroom. Retrieved September 8, 2014, from Tomorrow.org: http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/SU12\_DigitalConversion\_EducatorsReport.html
- SpeakUp. (2013, June). From Chalkboards to Tablets: The Emergence of the K-12 Digital Learner. Retrieved September 8, 2014, from Tomorrow.org: http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/SU12\_DigitalLearners\_StudentReport.html
- The President's 2015 Budget Proposal for Education. (2014). Retrieved September 8, 2014, from The Department of Education: http://www.ed.gov/budget15