

“It was the best fit for what we were trying to accomplish,” Mitchell said, “and seemed to be more capable of helping us meet our goals without any hidden costs.”

Profile

Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS) has an enrollment of 63,000 students, making it the largest school system in Alabama and the 56th largest in the U.S. The system comprises more than 100 public school buildings, including 51 elementary schools, 17 middle schools, 13 high schools, five magnet schools, three special schools, and two career technical schools. Mobile County Schools’s employees work collaboratively with a mission of graduating citizens who are “literate, responsible, and committed to learning over a lifetime.”

Challenges

Mobile County transports more than 26,000 students to and from its schools, using 730 buses that travel 42,000 miles each day across rural, urban, and suburban communities. Officials wanted to know the location of each bus to enable them to inform parents and school principals of delays and to ensure the safe transport of students. Officials also needed a way to monitor the buses to verify that drivers completed their duties on time, at safe speeds, and with the most efficient routes. Drivers who speed can endanger their passengers, and those who stray from their assigned routes can significantly increase costs for the school system, which buys more than 1.4 million gallons of fuel a year.

Solution

Encore is a GPS-enabled mobile resource management solution that lets Mobile County enhance student safety by monitoring the speed and location of all its buses in near real-time. This mobile application makes it easier for school officials to see that drivers adhere to traffic laws and school policies. The solution helps direct drivers away from accidents to keep the buses on schedule. It also helps reduce costs by confirming that drivers have taken the most efficient routes. Finally, having the ability to locate every bus at any moment of the day provides peace of mind for school officials and parents.

By the numbers:

