

# CUSTOMER PROFILE

PUBLIC SERVICES

LAWSON AT BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

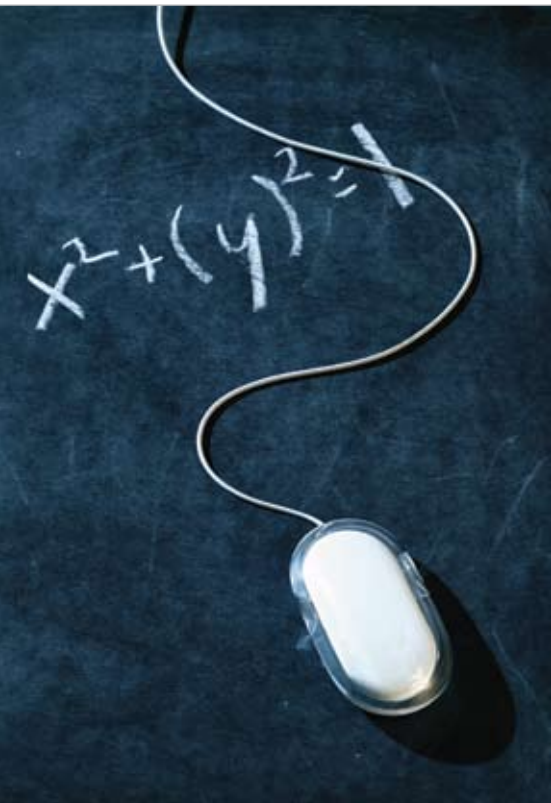


## **Boulder Valley School District works smarter, not harder, with Lawson Business Intelligence**

Boulder, Colorado, and the municipalities that surround the city comprise the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD). Schools in this uniquely scenic and progressive area serve 27,000 students in 55 locations with their 4,900 employees. But the BVSD community still faces many of the same issues that all schools face — raise student achievement, dedicate more resources to the classrooms, and be accountable for the efficient allocation of its resources.

"We are budgeted for 2.5 FTE for all Lawson development and support, but when we went live with Lawson Business Intelligence we were short-staffed and had only 1.5 FTE. We've accomplished a lot with pretty limited resources."

**Charcie Chase**  
Systems Analyst, Boulder Valley School District



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BVSD runs MS Windows 2003 and SQL Server 2005. To streamline administrative tasks and remain within its lean budget, BVSD has been very eager to adopt Lawson technology. For nearly three years, they have been using Lawson S3 Enterprise Management System software, including Financial Management, Human Capital Management (HR), and Supply Chain Management (Procurement).

The district also deploys Lawson Requisition Self-Service, Employee Self-Service, and eRecruiting, and, in the summer of 2006, they upgraded to Lawson System Foundation 9.0 and implemented the Lawson Business Intelligence 9.0 application.

## Before Lawson Business Intelligence: No Bells or Whistles

Prior to upgrading to Lawson Business Intelligence, the BVSD system delivered no 'bells or whistles,' according to Charcie Chase, systems analyst, Boulder Valley School District. "One, basic dashboard was published to all 300 system users, with dated report designs driven by the way the district used to operate. Rich content, charts, and graphs were a luxury we didn't have."

The dashboard lacked adequate content to keep users coming back, and the published reports were too detailed to be useful to key decision-makers. Because of these issues, user acceptance and usage of the district's dashboard were poor.

In addition, without report bursting capabilities, the dashboard administrators faced the time-consuming, cumbersome and error-prone task of passing parameters and setting up viewing permissions on more than 1,000 reporting links on the dashboard.

## Lawson Business Intelligence Visioning Session

A two-day Lawson Business Intelligence visioning session helped users throughout human resources, payroll, finance, procurement, warehouse and budgeting best determine how LBI tools such as Reporting Services, ProcessFlow and SmartNotes could help the district automate and improve processes, and better disseminate critical information.

"During the training, we discovered the difference between closed-loop and open-ended processes and which Lawson Business Intelligence tool was right for the job. We also identified circumstances where we should push data out to such users as principals or require them to access the dashboard and actively pull data," says Chase.

Visioning session attendees also discussed a cultural shift they anticipated would occur within the district. By delivering several cross-functional solutions in one package and automating outdated paper-driven processes, Lawson Business Intelligence tools would help transform users' responsibilities from clerical to analytical.



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**Charcie Chase**  
Systems Analyst, Boulder Valley School District

## After Lawson Business Intelligence: Evolutions Around

"After working with Lawson Business Intelligence, the system quickly brought about an evolution in how we deploy information, work with our system, staff our departments, and determine who our users are," says Chase.

With Lawson Business Intelligence now in place, users appreciate the custom-designed dashboards within the Lawson application, which include only the information relevant to their role within the district. An improvement to the complexity of the district's former dashboard, Lawson Business Intelligence interfaces are intuitive to navigate. The district is now working to augment their dashboards with content-rich, key performance indicators (KPIs).

Other features of Lawson Business Intelligence have proved invaluable to district end-users. Lawson Reporting Services with bursting allows users to obtain multiple views of the generated reports. Crystal Reports serves as the foundation for this component, which is designed for more complex and formal reporting functions. The majority of district reports are distributed via Lawson bursting technology so that recipients may view only content appropriate to their roles, locations, security clearances, and other parameters.

For example, the district has many grant- and location-based reports. The Lawson Business Intelligence administrators are able to easily configure group and user permissions to enable automatic bursting which saves a significant amount of time. "Automated, rules-based report bursting was a huge win for us. It reduced the number of reports we need to produce and distribute tenfold. Furthermore, it saved significant time repackaging multiple versions of the same report," says Chase.

The district also deployed custom Lawson ProcessFlow function streams for job requisition and hiring, as well as journal entry control, significantly reducing paper-flow and processing time from start to finish. Not only has ProcessFlow increased efficiency, but by automating email responses at critical points in the process, school users can see that the district administrative team is responsive to their requests. ProcessFlow Administration feature is a real time saver for the district and serves as a one-stop shop where IT administrators set up ProcessFlow users, define services, create tasks, and manage work units. "The efficiencies free our time to think strategically about, and plan for overall business process improvements," says Chase.

The Lawson Smart Notification® feature benefits the district by allowing information access to both experienced Lawson users (such as principals who monitor teachers' license expiration dates) and non-Lawson users (such as employees who have enrolled in benefit plans via Employee Self-Service).

Upon receiving Smart Notifications, recipients are able to instantly view the information and use the in-context links to take the desired action.

"Lawson Business Intelligence has made our lives easier. We've gone beyond simply reworking our world to mimic the way we used to conduct business. We're seeing an evolution in how we use Lawson Business Intelligence to automate processes and reduce paper. We also improved communications with both traditional Lawson administrative users and an expanding population of our employee base. We accomplish tasks more efficiently, and now have the ability to consolidate the various components of running a business into one, streamlined solution. We're very excited about the future with Lawson Business Intelligence," says Chase.



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### About Boulder Valley School District

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