

TOP OF THE CLASS

CASE STUDY

Alerton application helps to save time with flexible advanced scheduling across Sunnyvale School District



ALERTON

CONSERVING RESOURCES ONE BUILDING AT A TIME

When you have a school district like the Sunnyvale School District in Sunnyvale, California, comprised of a comprehensive preschool program, eight elementary schools, and two middle schools, opportunities to help save time and budget are always welcome.

This district team includes 943 educators, administrators, and support staff serving approximately 6,800 students and greater Sunnyvale. Community members and children alike use the districts' facilities at all hours, every day of the week. Yet, the demand of this nature does require heavy scheduling coordination by the district's facilities managers and staff.

Situated in the heart of Silicon Valley, the district's technology plan fittingly seeks to "improve...administrator effectiveness" and "increase the effective integration of technology."¹ Against this backdrop, the district looked to Sysserco, its local Alerton dealer, to install a new building automation system (BAS) with advanced scheduling capabilities designed for ease of use and time conservation.

MANAGING OPERATIONS WITH EASY-TO-USE TOOLS

To help the Sunnyvale School District support its technology plan and provide effective tools for staff, Sysserco installed Alerton's Compass software and the Event Assist Scheduling Engine (EASE) application. With Compass, district employees quickly and securely access system management data with graphical representations. This feature, along with customizable navigation and visual systems cues, helps building operators quickly identify and resolve internal issues. The software is designed to improve energy-use efficiencies and reduce operating costs.

The EASE scheduling feature specifically manages complex BAS schedules with easy-to-read visuals of schedules, calendars, and events. The district's facilities managers and office staff can use the intuitive, calendar-based interface to create custom schedules from anywhere, at any time.

Both the district's electrician and HVAC Technician Ricky Corrales employ EASE to efficiently manage exterior lighting across Sunnyvale educational facilities. EASE can help the district reduce energy waste and repurpose unused resources for other needs.

With the click of a button, Corrales and other district employees also have the flexibility to accommodate special event requests. From operating building systems during open houses and back-to-school nights, to other special events and community gatherings, EASE makes scheduling simple. Additionally, they can employ EASE in advance of school closures, such as recurring holidays and inclement weather shut downs. During 2019's particularly devastating wildfire season, the district was able to respond immediately thanks to EASE.



"During the California fires, we could shut down particular units while authorizing ventilation. EASE helped tremendously."

RICKY CORRALES
HVAC TECHNICIAN

SAVING TIME, REDUCING ERRORS

Mr. Corrales further credits EASE with time savings. Before EASE, it used to take him an entire day to schedule out tasks using the district's old system, which didn't allow the HVAC Technician to address the backlog of deferred maintenance. "The EASE system is easier, much easier," Corrales explained. "For blackout dates and holidays, I can sit down and create custom schedules in half an hour. This used to be an all-day affair." Even office or administrative professionals can use the system for scheduling pertinent events, such as board committee meetings.

By providing template creation capabilities with a user-friendly workflow and the ability to define resources for monitoring and controlling, EASE is designed to reduce the amount of time spent scheduling BAS and equipment usage. What's more, since EASE is simple to learn and operate, user errors decrease.

SUPPORTING GOALS AND THE COMMUNITY

Corrales and others in the Sunnyvale School District experience the flexible, powerful software as a time-saver that improves relationships between the district and the community by providing facility access when needed. With scheduling optimized, the district can turn to providing high-quality instructional and support services for its students and community members.



PROJECT SUMMARY

- Vertical market: K-12 Schools
- Owner: Sunnyvale School District
- Location: Sunnyvale, CA
- Dealer: Syserco – Fremont, CA
- Alerton products used: Ascent Compass Software, "EASE" (Advanced Scheduling) application

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