# Los Angeles Unified School District transforms data quality program and saves time with Certify.

## CHALLENGE

Manual district data quality reporting and inaccurate data. Major discrepancies on how schools were entering and reporting data in multiple systems.

## SOLUTION

Certify™ Enterprise Edition

## RESULTS

> Eliminated manual reports with a **centralized process**, now delivering automated bi-weekly notifications of data errors to each school.

> Thousands of **hours saved** on a weekly basis.

> **Reduced response time** to resolve data errors.

> Dramatically **improved data accuracy** resulting in a reduction in state reporting errors.

## Summary

Founded in 1853, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is the second largest school district in the United States. LAUSD enrolls roughly 570,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade at 1,306 schools including 224 public charter schools. The boundaries spread over 720 square miles and include the mega-city of Los Angeles.

LAUSD's mission is to "ensure academic achievement and empower tomorrow's leaders." They've proudly attained double-digit growth on the state Academic Performance Index (API), experienced an upward trend in graduation rates and improved other academic indicators. With the help of Certica's Certify data validation application, the LAUSD data quality program has been dramatically improved.

> "Data drives our business. From student achievement to funding to program support. If our data is inaccurate we are losing opportunities that support our students and the administration. With Certify, we can now maximize our potential for success.
>
> *GARY SABIA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MiSiS PROJECT*

## New imperative for accurate data

Five years ago, LAUSD implemented a new student information system (SIS) which, as with many new SIS implementations, revealed data quality issues. "Bringing data together from multiple systems into our new student information system (SIS), we could see that there were inconsistencies once the data was centralized," said Marissa Tamayo, LAUSD Data Quality Team Lead. Previously, schools in the district had been working with multiple SIS systems each with its own process for data entry and reporting. To locate data errors, schools would manually run custom reports. This was difficult to report and track. In addition, the district's oversight group would notify each school by fax machine of data issues they had located.

## Creating ownership and accountability

It was imperative to gain the support of those who worked with the data so Diane Pappas, CEO of Strategic Planning and Digital Innovation for LAUSD, enlisted the help of the district's Office of Data and Accountability (ODA) to collaborate on finding a solution to the problem. They were determined to find a solution that would address their data challenges in a centralized manner. Having learned about Certify from other districts in California, the team decided to implement Certify from Certica Solutions. Certify is a rules-based application that could monitor the data in their SIS such as enrollment, attendance, discipline, special ed and much more.

The solution automated data validation, monitoring of critical fields and automatically generated bi-weekly error reports through an easy-to-read scorecard that was emailed to each school. "Everything is in one place. We now push error reporting to the schools. Everything is now automatic," according to Marissa Tamayo. The ODA established a district-wide process with each school assigned a coordinator to monitor their incoming reports and correct their data. They also can now load the errors from state reporting files directly into Certify, reconcile them with district source data and push them out to the schools. The new process ensures that data is corrected quickly and with fewer manual interventions.

## Great product with more potential

According to Diane Pappas, "I was concerned about rolling out another product so soon after our SIS implementation. I was delighted that at a critical time when we were having difficulty, Certify did not cause any angst and solved our problem." Not only did Certify resolve the data quality issues and save thousands of hours of time across the district, LAUSD was able to generate an ad hoc dashboard and can now follow summary level trends which is beneficial for a complete view of the district. "We had 30 data validation rules to start and have since expanded to 105 rules. We saw so much potential and there is a lot of excitement about how we can extend our data quality program even further," said Marissa Tamayo.

To learn more, visit **CerticaSolutions.com**, call **855.766.9916** (ext. 1) or email **Sales@CerticaSolutions.com.**

## About Certica Solutions

Certica is dedicated to advancing academic progress and equity in education through measurable improvements in student achievement. Certica's analytic, assessment and data management solutions provide a foundation for standards-based learning and assessment, as well as teacher data literacy. Certica serves more than 1,500 K-12 school districts and numerous charter school organizations and educational service agencies. Certica is based in Wakefield, Massachusetts, with offices in North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas. Follow Certica on Twitter @Certica_K12.

CS-10-2020