

# Student Support, Service improves for DC's Perry Street Prep Charter School



PERRY STREET PREP

## KEY CUSTOMER BENEFITS



COMPLIANCE



STUDENT  
PERFORMANCE



SERVICES



DOCUMENTATION

*Implementing PowerSchool Registration for new and returning students at Perry Street Prep Charter School in Washington, DC, improved student support and service, notably for ELL and IEP students, while helping the school with compliance requirements.*

**Cheryl Bell joined Perry Street Prep Charter School as Records Coordinator in July 2013, weeks before the start of the school year, and faced quite a challenge. Any school administrator can attest that August and September are the busiest months of the year with regards to enrollment/registration. PowerSchool's online solution for registration significantly eased the burden.**

### Launching Online

As a parent of children enrolled in charter schools, Bell knew something about the enrollment process in Washington, DC, but only from a parent's point of view. She was familiar with the old paper-based registration at Perry Street Prep and the school's transition to InfoSnap. "Advertisement was done and a large banner was put up to announce that we were going online and that paper registration was

eliminated. I was able to register my kids online. It was very user-friendly and convenient because I could do it at any time. I didn't have to come in during school hours or after work. I followed up with proof of residency and then I was done," shared Bell.

However, not all families in the DC area are as receptive to online enrollment, which often presents a challenge to DC charter schools, particularly now that DC operates a common enrollment application

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RECORDS COORDINATOR  
PERRY STREET PREP

and lottery system. As a records coordinator and a parent, Bell said, “The biggest problem is parents think the application is the enrollment form, so they complete it in thinking their child is enrolled.” She chuckled, recalling parents walking through Perry Street Prep’s doors wondering why standard registration forms are required and why they received a registration invitation with a unique PowerSchool Registration code (SnapCode) to register their child at Perry Street Prep. “We must be more diligent about educating our parents and remain consistent with communication so they understand securing vital information is essential to proper registration. Demographic information often changes from year to year. We must ensure we have the most current information possible to send communications and contact parents in the event of an emergency. We’re doing an PowerSchool Registration campaign this year: What’s your SnapCode?”

### Improving Education

Bell and the Perry Street Prep team are working on developing a strong adoption of online enrollment, aiming for a 90% completion rate.

#### CENTRAL INFORMATION

Bell attests that PowerSchool’s online enrollment system benefits major departments in the school as well as ELL and IEP students by providing accurate information at the right time in one easily accessible portal. “At the beginning of the school year, principals, counselors, and our student support services director who leads ELL and children with special services, all come to me to get information. It’s all in one place with InfoSnap and I find what they need quickly and easily.”

#### IDENTIFYING IEP AND ELL STUDENTS

“This year, I requested additional tags to be placed in our PowerSchool

Registration forms to flag ELL and Student Support (IEPs) so when those students registered, it would flag their answer in my administrative portal to put them in a specific category. I can immediately identify incoming ELL and IEP students and send their information to our student services director before they attend school. The director can reach out to these families and set up services needed prior to the first day of school,” Bell stated.

Bell did not stop at tags to make sure she was capturing all of the data required for students to be successful. “Sometimes, parents don’t answer IEP or ELL questions out of fear. But, if you ask 7 or 8 questions, they usually answer at least one that our tagging system picks up so PowerSchool Registration alerts us that the child has an IEP and we can get the information we need before the student starts school to ensure their success.” In short, PowerSchool Registration helps Perry Street Prep identify and serve the special needs of its student population. Bell summarized, “PowerSchool Registration has made a huge impact on the educational services offered to our students—we are better prepared for students upon arrival.”

### Compliance

PowerSchool Registration also helps Perry Street Prep with its annual enrollment audits and compliance. Perry Street Prep’s online registration forms ask what Ward a student comes from—now a required question, so that all families provide the required data. Bell explained, “You must obtain Ward information in DC and now we are certain we are compliant with this requirement. That is a big issue in DC— you have to prove residency.”

Compliance is deeper than proof of residency. Bell continued, “Different areas of our school operations

must comply with items such as teacher ratio to students, proper transportation, and required documentation. While these departments at Perry Street Prep don't use PowerSchool Registration, it would not be as easy to comply if they didn't have the foundational information that comes from PowerSchool Registration."

### HEALTH AND IMMUNIZATIONS

A prime example is immunization records and ensuring students have received the appropriate immunizations. Bell shared, "Our nurses love PowerSchool Registration. The admissions department collects all immunization records and I am able to inform them who hasn't submitted immunization records and thus who is outside of compliance. The nurses know immediately who to speak with about getting their immunizations."

Before PowerSchool Registration, all health forms and records were stored in the nurse's suite at the far end of the building. If a student was transferring to a different school, all health records would need to be retrieved from the nurse's office. Bell continued, "Oftentimes, access to health records was challenging due to its separate and remote location." Bell now has everything she needs in the PowerSchool Registration administrative portal to help families transfer.

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### Conclusion

"I love PowerSchool Registration. When I turn on my computer, it's the first thing I bring up. The one thing I appreciate most about PowerSchool Registration is the service – the overall patience and kindness of the staff, assistance with trouble shooting, responding back in a timely fashion whether it's by email or phone call, even checking in to make sure I'm still alive!" She laughed and continued,

"You develop a good working relationship. Even if there is an issue we couldn't immediately resolve, the PowerSchool Registration team would say, 'let me check and I'll get back to you.' And they actually get back to you!"

PowerSchool Registration has helped Perry Street Prep, its operations, its compliance, and has boosted its service to families in so many ways. After surviving her first enrollment whirlwind, Bell is now a PowerSchool Registration expert and is the central source of vital information for her school. "It's a great system for any type of school and I would absolutely recommend PowerSchool Registration to the masses!"

## POWERSCHOOL KNOWS DC

PowerSchool serves thousands of students in the District of Columbia. With offices in the greater DC metro area, we understand DC public school needs and regularly attend education events and initiatives in the area. PowerSchool also provides many DC charter schools with a registration solution that compliments the District's unified charter application and lottery system.

## ABOUT POWERSCHOOL

PowerSchool, the #1 leading provider of K-12 technology solutions, serves more than 40 million users and over 15 million students in 70+ countries, playing a central role in K-12 education around the world. PowerSchool provides industry leading best-in-class secure, compliant school operations solutions including Student Information System and Student Enrollment solutions. PowerSchool also provides innovative digital classroom capabilities, enabling a consistent user experience for managing attendance, grading, assignments, assessments and analytics to empower teachers and drive student growth.



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