

Michigan School District at the Top of the Class with VelocityEHS



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Renee Sieggreen

Business Office & Purchasing Office Professional
Midland Public Schools

Located in Midland, Michigan, Midland Public Schools (MPS) is a public school district comprised of 11 buildings, including elementary, middle, and high schools. The district serves roughly 8,000 students in the community and has nearly 1,400 employees.

Until 2014, MPS relied on a traditional paper binder method to manage safety data sheets for an array of chemicals used throughout the schools. As the variety of chemical products increased over recent years, the responsibility of maintaining safety data sheets grew with it. MPS decided to move to a cloud-based safety data sheet management solution, and turned to VelocityEHS Chemical Management.

Renee Sieggreen has worked as Business Office and Purchasing Office Professional for MPS for 14 years and is in charge of managing the district's safety data

sheets. Discussing the decision to make the change, Ms. Sieggreen emphasizes the large number of safety data sheets that must be kept for the safety of both students and staff, and the challenges that led MPS to partner with VelocityEHS.

As in most school settings, the list of chemicals found in the district's schools covers many uses: personal and industrial cleaners (such as hand sanitizers and multi-surface disinfectants), laboratory chemicals (solvents, acids, bases), art supplies (paints, photographic chemicals), and healthcare equipment (mercury thermometers), to name a few. Although many schools don't have adequate processes in place to manage the dangers posed by these chemicals, MPS has long made it a point to stay on top of chemical safety – even when it involved a cumbersome manual process.

"We have to be very safety-oriented; if someone can ingest it, inhale it, or get it on their skin, we need to have a safety

data sheet for it," Ms. Sieggreen explains. "When we used paper binders, all our different buildings and departments had to have copies. The amount of paper was just unbelievable."

Additionally, Ms. Sieggreen says that after MPS teachers were given more autonomy in securing classroom supplies, the collection and organization of safety information under the old system became an increasingly daunting task. Methods for managing chemical inventory, such as referencing credit card statements to make sure all necessary safety data sheets were accounted for, became even more complex and time consuming.

"In my position I look at every credit card statement, and it was a challenge," she notes.

Ms. Sieggreen says that since adopting VelocityEHS Chemical Management, she has had a much easier time managing all of MPS's SDSs, and has realized new efficiencies.



"What I like most about VelocityEHS Chemical Management is that I don't have to go and search for an updated safety data sheet, because they are updated automatically," she reports. "The time that I spend looking for these documents has been greatly reduced. It's unbelievable how many hours VelocityEHS has saved me."

According to Ms. Sieggreen, MPS's high level of satisfaction with VelocityEHS Chemical Management has the district looking forward to a long relationship with VelocityEHS. She cites ease of use and above-and-beyond customer service as key factors.

"The VelocityEHS support people are the best, and are always helpful and knowledgeable," Ms. Sieggreen concludes. "From the start, the support with getting this up and running was very, very good. Any time I asked a question, they were very happy to help, and they've even kept up communication to see how we've been doing along the way."

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FIND A POWERFUL SOLUTION

Educational campuses face a unique set of safety and HazCom challenges. Keeping track of chemicals can be particularly complex in these environments, as faculty often bring products into classrooms on an individual basis — leading to a wider, more unwieldy array of chemical information to manage. Plus, chemical management is particularly critical in these environments given the relative vulnerability of students and other stakeholders who may not be aware of the potential severity of the hazards around them.

Some hazards, like those associated with lab and science chemicals, are obvious, but others may be practically invisible to the average student. It falls to the safety professional to ensure that all necessary personnel receive required HazCom training and have mandated right-to-know access to chemical safety information like safety data sheets.

No matter the size of your classroom, campus, or school district, VelocityEHS has a proven suite of safety solutions trusted by leading educational institutions across the country. Our regularly updated library of millions of safety data sheets — the largest and most comprehensive in the industry — makes it easy to manage a compliant HazCom program.

From looking up common chemicals likely to be found in educational environments, to managing and tracking chemicals across multiple campuswide storage locations, our powerful solutions help educational institutions reduce risk, improve efficiencies, and move toward streamlined compliance.

Benefits of VelocityEHS Chemical Management

Millions of MSDSs at Your Fingertips

24/7 access to the industry's leading database of safety data sheets ensures your company's library is up-to-date and in compliance.

Simplify Compliance

Easy-to-use tools help you meet hazard communication requirements (OSHA / WHMIS / GHS), including hazard determination, right-to-know access, labeling, safe chemical handling, PPE, and more.

Improve Chemical Management

Robust chemical management tools provide greater container-level control over the location, status and risk associated with the chemicals you use. Our free mobile SDS/Chemical Management app lets you scan barcode/QR code labels for in-the-field container management.

Mobile Access

Our online accounts are mobile optimized, and our free SDS/Chemical Management app makes it possible to access SDSs and chemical inventory information offline, when internet connectivity is limited. With these mobile capabilities, critical chemical safety information is always at your fingertips.

Regulatory Compliant

Multiple back-up options mean your system meets OSHA, WHMIS and other regulatory requirements for electronic safety data sheet /chemical management.

Quick ROI & Low Cost of Ownership

VelocityEHS Chemical Management pays for itself by eliminating time-consuming, manual administrative tasks. Plus, there's no software to install or maintain, and you get immediate access to new features.

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