# Texas Education Agency Community in Schools Database Re-write

## CHALLENGE

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) had issues with its client Community in Schools (CIS) database, which is used by case workers to monitor student data, including academic, behavioral and social service needs, and track education outcomes for students referred to the CIS program. CIS was looking for a modernized database re-write that would solve issues with inaccurate data and timeliness of entry.

Red River was tasked with re-writing and implementing a more efficient database that could handle the bandwidth of over 900 campuses and case workers in Texas. The following were the goals of the re-write:

- Create a database that allows users to quickly and accurately enter and submit data.
- Make it easier for users to assess students' needs, develop service plans, and execute on those service plans through the database.
- Gather reports on funding to show affiliates, like local businesses, how their funding is being used, and to make decisions on how state funding will be used in the future.

CIS wanted to deliver this re-write in the middle of the school year, so Red River had to ensure the database was fully functional and met all of the goals at launch.

## SOLUTIONS

Red River worked side-by-side with the CIS director and technical lead for one year to develop the new database. Daily project status meetings allowed CIS to tell Red River exactly what features they wanted in the new database, and helped CIS build confidence and enthusiasm for the re-write. To ease the transition to a new database for the first time in 13 years, Red River released each feature on a monthly basis, which allowed users to take time to become comfortable using each feature so they can properly utilize the entire database.

Red River also created a tab that shows a graph of live data with the number of services currently being provided and how that lines up with the planned services for the year. This helps case workers make decisions on what services to provide, how effective the services are and allows them to show affiliates how their funding is being used to help students succeed.

## RESULTS

CIS case workers immediately reported that the new database is much easier to navigate, and allowed them to assess students and complete data entries much faster. The CIS director says they are now completing their data entries and reports and sending them to Federal CIS one month earlier than usual with accuracy and confidence. The improved CIS database helps case workers and TEA better serve their students.

Red River was contracted directly with TEA and worked daily with their customer, CIS. Red River provided design, testing and implementation. TEA provided project management.

## ABOUT RED RIVER

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