

# Pomona USD Cuts Textbook Losses, Replacement Costs With Centralized, Web-Delivered Management System

**Follett Software Company's Destiny Textbook Manager™ helps district save money and improve instruction in a time of shrinking budgets**

**P**omona Unified School District has cut textbook losses by 20–25%, and reduced duplicate orders by 70%, thanks to a centralized, web-delivered textbook management system.

Like all California school districts, Pomona Unified is striving to live up to the mandates of the Williams case, which requires that they ensure every student has timely and adequate access to instructional materials. And like school districts everywhere, Pomona is facing continuously shrinking budgets.

Part of the answer to both problems was to implement a textbook management system that would track the location of every one of the district's more than 375,000 textbooks. "Before we went to a centralized system, sites were responsible for managing textbook inventories," recalls David Bogardus, the district's teacher-specialist for instructional materials. "As a result, student accountability was inconsistent across the district. Textbook orders were filled based on site requests, and because record-keeping was decentralized we had duplication of inventory and increased costs."

In 2004, the settlement of Williams vs. State of California forced districts to ensure that "each student has a textbook or instructional materials, or both, to use in the class and to take home."

"The Williams legislation required greater accountability and live reporting of textbook inventory status," Bogardus said. "Inventory had to be fluid and responsive when shortages occurred. We could no longer function under the 'local ownership' model for textbook materials."

In response, all site textbook budgets were centralized and textbooks became the property of Pomona Unified School District. To manage the inventory, the district opted for Destiny Textbook Manager™ from Follett Software Company.

## Centralized, Web-Based Management

Destiny Textbook Manager is an easy-to-use system that saves districts and schools time and money by giving them total control of their textbook inventory – anytime, anywhere. Using

Destiny Textbook Manager, school or district staff quickly check textbooks in and out of inventory using a barcode scanner. Because the program is entirely web-based, books can be checked in or out at any scanner-equipped computer on the school's network. Destiny Textbook Manager records the holder of the book and its

**"...a savings of \$130,020 for just the start of this year."**

condition at check out, and updates condition information when the book is checked back in.

Destiny Textbook Manager creates a single textbook database for the district, allowing textbooks to be efficiently transferred between schools.

More than 6,000 schools and 300 districts across the country have chosen Destiny Textbook Manager. This market-leading solution helps them support accountability for textbook resources throughout their districts, ensures students have the textbooks they need to meet learning goals and provides easy, powerful, web-based access to textbook management functions for staff and administrators.

## Budget Results

With Destiny Textbook Manager in place, Pomona USD is able to handle all textbook requests from the Instructional Materials Department. A specialist fills the majority of orders by checking district inventory and requesting transfers from other sites. The district's warehouse now barcodes all textbooks prior to delivery. Barcode ranges are sent to the department for entering

into Destiny Textbook Manager; student information is imported directly from the Student Information System. With all this information already in Destiny Textbook Manager, teachers need only scan the barcode with a handheld scanner to record check-outs and check-ins.

With easy access to textbook information, the district has been able to better hold students accountable and reduce losses by 25%. More importantly, the system has facilitated the transfer of surplus textbooks from one school to another – books the district used to have to purchase. By identifying these surplus books in the district, Destiny Textbook Manager has also supported a significant reduction in textbook replacement costs. "We had over 2,167 books



transferred from July through October 2006," Bogardus said. "If we take the average cost of the textbook to be \$60.00 that would be a savings of \$130,020 for just the start of this year."

Despite these successes, Bogardus advises caution when selecting and implementing a centralized management system. "You can slap a barcode on anything, but finding a program that integrates multiple inventories and provides effective policy management for all these distinctive materials is critical," he says. "Choose a program that is school- and district-oriented, not just library-oriented. Find a program backed by a staff and resources to drive your team to success."

For more information, call 800-323-3397 or visit [www.fsc.follett.com](http://www.fsc.follett.com)

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