



Westhill CSD, NY

Using Sequencing Tool To Route Homework to Students



CONTACT

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Michelle Rether, Dispatcher, Westhill CSD, in Syracuse, NY received a call last week from her Superintendent asking if she would be able to do mail delivery of homework packets to the Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 4th grade students. And if they could be routed and delivered in two days...by Friday. The only answer she could give was “Yes, of course”, but wasn’t quite sure where to start.

There were 791 students she needed to route, which typically is how many she’s transporting on a “business as usual day”, going to and from school, but has the summer to work on those routes.

Michelle called Transfinder’s technical support and told them what she needed to do. Transfinder’s seasoned Bob Jabonaski gave Michelle a new database and imported the students in those grades. However, instead of taking them one by one and assigning them to a route, he showed Michelle how to use the **sequencing tool**.

She could circle an area and assign those students to a bus and let the system sequence the stops. On a typical trip where you are picking up students and driving them to or from school this may not be a perfect solution, because you would need to make edits for safety, such as right hand only pickups; it was the perfect solution for this situation. The buses did not have children on board. They had two adults, a driver, and a runner to bring the packet to the house, who could cross the road.

In addition, because the routes were not edited to take into account the routers local knowledge, Michelle forewarned her drivers there could be instances they may need to turn their buses around and make adjustments on the fly. The district had enough smaller buses to take for each route, so that significantly helped in case a driver did need to turn around. Each route took 2 hours and had an average of 60 students assigned to each bus. The schools did the labeling of the packets and boxing them accordingly.

The day after this successful delivery the Superintendent called Michelle again and asked if she could do the same thing for the 6th graders. This time she said “Yes, I can do this” with confidence.

She called Transfinder Technical Support again, got a new database, and had her 6th graders routed in 15 minutes.



Anyone who doesn’t reach out to Transfinder support when they have something like this, who knows the ins and outs, absolutely should.

Michelle Rether, Westhill CSD