



Creating Islands of Safety

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New York City Department of Education Awards Common ID Services Contracts to Access411

Next Generation Technology Provides Increased Security for Students and Cost Savings for the DOE

January 25, 2010 – YORK, PENNSYLVANIA – Morrison Consulting [d/b/a [Access411](#)] announced that it has been awarded two contracts by the New York City Department of Education [NYCDOE] for its Common ID Services. The first contract, referred to as the “Embedded Infrastructure”, is to maintain the existing system which is in 253 buildings and over 400 schools that currently operate Access411’s award-winning software solution, *Comprehensive, Attendance, Administration, and Security System* [CAASS]. The [CAASS System](#) provides automated access control at the entries and exits of the schools, student attendance and point-of-sales functions. The second contract, referred to as the “Next Generation” Common ID Services, is an upgraded system providing new software cost savings, state-of-the-art equipment and new security features for the current CAASS schools. The Next Generation Contract calls for CAASS to be expanded into many more schools throughout the length of the contract.

As reported by the New York Daily News on September 19, 2009 [*Panel for Education Policy signs off on \$250 million in controversial contracts*] and in the contracts themselves, “Both the Embedded and Next Generation Common ID Services contracts were awarded to Morrison Consulting [d/b/a Access411]. The purpose of the system is to provide a secure student identification device, generally referred to as a student ID card, and control several functions including but not limited to entry and exit control to the facilities.”

Under the Common ID Services project, each student is issued a photo identification card which will be scanned each morning upon entry, ensuring that only the enrolled students are in the school and prohibiting unauthorized persons from having access to the students and staff. In addition, CAASS automates the attendance tracking process and links attendance functions to the disciplinary program. For example, CAASS captures class cuts, which in turn allows staff to quickly respond to class cutting issues when they occur leading to a more secure building. Because the system helps to eliminate human error in recording attendance and tardiness, schools using CAASS experience accurate attendance data and increased accountability for students.

William Morrison, Access411 Chief Executive Officer said, “We realize there’s widespread concern throughout our entire nation about education spending when teachers are being laid off and there are budget shortfalls in a lot of other areas. Our system has been an important part of the overall decline in school crime in NYCDOE schools since 2001 and addresses our most critical obligation to our students – their safety. ” Morrison continued, “Access411 is honored to have won the competition to serve NYC schools through 2018. We are looking forward to working closely with our partners in the NYC schools to create islands of safety for NYC students and staff!”

Some of the new features of the Next Generation System include:

Increased Security

- Consolidation of independent servers that reside in school facilities to a centralized server. This adds an important layer of security to remove the risk of stolen private student information. This also removes potential points of failure for the multiple, independent servers.
- New mobile carts for the system feature locking cabinets. And since storage space is often limited in school facilities, the new carts are smaller so they may fit into smaller storage spaces.
- The new Visitor Pass Plus component which when implemented will allow scanning and collect all visitor information and enable schools to verify if an adult has authorization to remove a student from the facility. This will deter and prevent unauthorized persons from entering the school.

Decreased Costs

- Laptop computers will replace desktop units and monitors which lower the cost of hardware acquisition and maintenance.
- The new centralized server will replace the upkeep and maintenance on all local servers that reside in individual schools.
- The new web-based application will require no local software installation on the school personnel's computers.
- Since hardware theft is a primary concern, new locking cabinets on carts will assist with loss prevention initiatives.
- New late pass printers will have an automatic cutting feature, like a receipt at a check out stand, in lieu of the old tear-off sheets. This will reduce wear and tear on the printers, jamming and breaking which adds to the cost savings.

Implementation of the Next Generation system is estimated to begin in the spring, 2010.

Morrison closed by saying, "From the years of experience we've already had in New York City Schools, we can attest that the system will be a win-win for all parties involved. It will allow the educators to spend more time teaching and less time on administrative tasks such as writing late passes and taking attendance while making school facilities a safer place for students and staff."

About the Common ID Contracts

The Embedded Contract is a five year contract which scope requires Access411 to maintain the current schools within their current CAASS school based configuration. When the CAASS hardware in the Embedded schools come to the end of its life cycle, the schools will be converted to the NYCDOE-wide enterprise level CAASS configuration.

The Next Generation Contract is a multi-year contract and will be the go-forward CAASS solution for the NYCDOE. Within the next five years the current Embedded CAASS schools will be converted over to the hosted Next Generation configuration. All new CAASS purchases will be under the Next Generation contract.

About Access411

Access411 provides software solutions and services, focusing exclusively on the needs of K-12 schools. Access411 offers a turnkey solution named Comprehensive, Attendance, Administration, and Security System [CAASS], that includes software, hardware, installation, training and ongoing customer support. CAASS provides solutions to many of the challenges facing educators today, such as attendance, building and cafeteria access control, and student information management and analysis. More than 500,000 students use the CAASS solution daily.

Access411's breadth of experience spans from large school districts like New York City Public Schools to small school districts like Thornton Fractional School District in Illinois. Access411 has worked closely on the "One Card" initiative in Washington, DC by winning multiple contracts to implement the "One Card" program in Washington, DC Public Schools. Founded in 1996 as School Technology Management, the company was purchased in June 2006 by Morrison Consulting, Inc. and began doing business as Access411 in October 2006. For more information, visit the company's website at www.access411.com.

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