



# Decatur Public Schools Goes Green, Saves Budget Dollars with Alert Solutions

## The Challenge



School administrators at Decatur Public Schools were struggling to maintain consistent communication with parents.

With no school notification system in place, staff members sent written communications and report cards through the mail - a process that was becoming very costly and time consuming.

For [weather-related closings](#) and other time-sensitive announcements, school administrators reached out to local news stations but could never confirm if all parents were getting the message.

Tired of the increasing costs of communicating via the postal service, school administrators at Decatur Public Schools started searching for a more affordable and efficient way to keep parents informed.

## The Solution

After learning about Alert Solutions at a local PowerSchool User Group conference, school administrators at Decatur Public Schools chose to activate the [Communication Suite](#) within their PowerSchool application.

Alert Solutions gives administrators the ability to interact with parents electronically using communication channels they prefer: email, voice and SMS text messaging.

In addition to the notification system, Decatur Public Schools also purchased the [Automated Reports Module](#). This feature enables users to automatically email report cards, transcripts, student evaluations and more to parents from directly within PowerSchool.

*"In addition to all of the money we save by sending messages electronically, our parents absolutely love Alert Solutions. Some even say they look forward to getting calls from us!"*

**Theresa Osbeck**  
Asst. to Superintendent

## The Benefits

Since activating Alert Solutions within their PowerSchool student information system more than two years ago, Decatur Public Schools has seen a lot of positive results.

Decatur Public Schools' process of sending home important documents is now streamlined. By eliminating their dependence on paper, ink and postage, school administrators have [experienced a significant cost savings](#) as well as a reduced staff workload.

Switching to Alert Solutions has also [improved parent engagement](#) and overall satisfaction. Parent-teacher conference attendance has increased and parents have expressed their appreciation for the more frequent communication.