

TRIG's Data Services Collaborative's ROI Study on Green Pupil Accounting Finds Savings to Districts Abound

Recently, findings of an ROI Study on the savings and benefits involved in Green Pupil Accounting were presented by MPAAA and TRIG's Data Service Collaboratives grant. This timely initiative took a look at what has been anecdotally experienced by districts and auditors who have 'gone green'. The complete Green Pupil Accounting and Auditing Return on Investment (ROI) Study, written by Michelle Johnston, Ph.D., can be found [here](http://22itrig.org/downloads/data_services_collaborative/mpaaa_roi_report_-_final.pdf) (http://22itrig.org/downloads/data_services_collaborative/mpaaa_roi_report_-_final.pdf) while excerpts from the study are below:

Throughout the 2015–2016 and 2016–2017 academic years, members of the Michigan Pupil Accounting and Attendance Association (MPAAA) reported saving paper, time, and effort using green pupil accounting processes, specifically electronically or paperless processes.

The traditional accountants and auditors reported the amounts of paper, time, effort, and storage that were required to file their count day reports. Some used up to 20 reams of paper per count day. Additionally, they reported issues storing hard copies of student data for over seven years. While the green and hybrid accountants and auditors identified time-saving efficiencies, reductions of paper, and simplifications in verifying pupil data, *they also reported the data were more accurate and consistent*. Some saved as much as half their audit time using electronic methods.

While 100% of the green auditors recommend the green auditing process, 80% say the process was more accurate and consistent. 80% had received training for green pupil accounting.

Auditing Days in the Schools		
Days	Before Green Auditing	With Green Auditing
1-2 days	40%	80%
3-4 days	40%	20%
5-6 days	0%	0%
7 or more days	20%	0%

The estimated savings relative to the accountant and auditors time approximate \$10,748,500 per year, not counting the time related to teachers and other personnel who engage in pupil accounting. School districts also would experience incidental savings on paper consumption and on the expenses related to paper consumption, including copying, punching holes, organizing binders, and storage.

If your district would like more information on how they can begin the transition to Green Pupil Accounting, contact Rob Dickinson at Rob@mpaaa.org.