



Location: El Cajon, California



Enrollment: 18,000

With Q, Cajon Valley can



Streamline cafeteria operations



Efficiently manage assets



Generate multi-lingual report cards

How the Q Student Information System Empowers Cajon Valley Union School District to Achieve Student Success

Cajon Valley Union School District in San Diego County, California serves a diverse population of over 18,000 students across 28 schools. As a district committed to providing a quality education for all, technology plays a crucial role in ensuring student success.

We spoke with Jonathon Guertin, Chief Technology Officer, about Cajon Valley's decades-long partnership with Aequitas and their use of the company's SIS product, Q. Having worked with numerous SIS vendors throughout his career in education, Jonathon ranks Q as his favorite Student Information System for its extensibility and support.

Streamlined Cafeteria Operations

Prior to using Q's integrated food service module, Cajon Valley struggled to ensure all qualified students received free or reduced-priced meals. Their previous system for determining eligibility for the free and reduced lunch program

was not integrated with their SIS, was error-prone, and limited the district's ability to extend benefits to family members who might not have direct certification themselves.

By implementing Q Food Service, Cajon Valley significantly improved its ability to identify and deliver free and reduced-price meals to qualified students. Q Food Service is seamlessly integrated with Q SIS, reducing duplicate data entry and streamlining the eligibility process and eliminating the logistical hurdles that previously prevented them from extending benefits to family members.



“That’s one of the aspects I enjoy most about Q. The ease of not only getting data in and out of the system but also being able to configure and choose different types of data we want to show different audiences. It’s saved our district a lot of headaches.” - **Jonathon Guertin, CVUSD**

Asset Management with High Student Mobility

Cajon Valley’s high student mobility rate posed a unique challenge for asset management. Students frequently transfer between district schools, which made it difficult to track Chromebooks assigned to them on their previous SIS.

“We would have to go through a whole transfer process and then someone would have to go back in and manually accept it,” Guertin explained. “The entire process took valuable time for our staff to complete, and because of the manual nature, it was also prone to inaccuracies.”

Once the district implemented Q SIS inventory module, the district streamlined the entire workflow around tracking Chromebooks assigned to their students. The module not only automated tasks previously performed manually by IT staff, such as tracking Chromebook assignments and transfers, but it also simplified repair management and helped prevent loss or theft.

“We were surprised by how easy it was to integrate the inventory module with other systems, like enrollment and our help desk,” Guertin said. “It’s helped streamline everything around Chromebooks, from requesting one at the beginning of the school year to getting repairs done.”



Configurable, Multi-Lingual Report Cards

Generating report cards was a time-intensive task before using Q’s report card feature. Each report card template existed as individual PDF documents, requiring hours of work to modify and remap.

Q’s report card capabilities revolutionized how Cajon Valley generated and distributed student reports. By eliminating manual template mapping, supporting different, configurable report card types, direct language translations, and enabling mass updates, the system drastically reduced the time and effort required for report card generation.

“Report cards now take a fraction of the time they used to,” Guertin said. “The time savings allows our staff to focus on other aspects of students’ education – not just compiling report cards.”

An Extensible SIS for Cajon Valley's Unique Needs

Reflecting on his experience in the education industry, Guertin stated that many SIS products are “off-the-shelf” and require the school district to adapt their operations to the system's requirements.

With pre-built, configurable features as well as an extensible product architecture, Q is easily adaptable and flexible for any district depending on the desired level of customization. For Cajon Valley, setting up custom widgets to enable staff to retrieve information relevant to their job function has proven invaluable.



“When dealing with an SIS, you usually get what you get. It can be time-consuming and frustrating trying to make your district work with a specific SIS – but that's not the case with Q. We're able to make it fit in with our unique operations at Cajon Valley, rather than forcing our operations to fit around the software itself.” - **Jonathon Guertin, CVUSD**

Cajon's Vision for Continuous Improvement

While Cajon Valley has made significant strides in its district operations with Q, the district remains focused on future goals, like enhancing the enrollment process through full digitalization and utilizing data visualizations to improve student outcomes.

With an online enrollment process, Cajon Valley hopes to remove hurdles associated with traditional paper-based methods, like endless paperwork and in-person visits. For data visualizations, Cajon Valley has its sights set on Q Analytics. By leveraging the data collected by this integrated module, Cajon Valley hopes to gain a deeper understanding of its student population and make data-driven decisions to power student success.

As the district embraces the future of paperless enrollment and enhanced data analytics, Aequitas Solutions and its SIS, Q, remain a crucial partner in Cajon Valley's journey towards a more effective, inclusive, and successful learning environment for all students.



“Aequitas and by extension, Q, is really a partner of ours. In a state as complex as California, it's invaluable to have that relationship and trust with a vendor versus just being a one-in-a-thousand district. Having a true partner that wants to help you achieve success is invaluable.” - **Jonathon Guertin, CVUSD**

