

CUSTOMER STORY:

# The School Leadership Center



*“The versatility of the reports makes Financial Edge the best. We are able to do everything from grant management to student activity account reports. The charter schools can segregate the accounts by clubs, for example. But then they can also pull all those accounts together to show an overview of the financials and present it in a format that is easy to understand. It really is the best solution.”*

— Robert Gremillion  
Chief Financial Officer

The School Leadership Center of Greater New Orleans

The School Leadership Center (SLC) is a not-for-profit 501(c) 3 dedicated to developing Louisiana’s public and non-public school leaders, and optimizing teaching and learning in the school environment in order to increase student achievement.

## Challenge

The SLC of Greater New Orleans began a collaborative effort to provide administrative assistance to numerous charter schools in the area.

Many of the charter schools were missing the deadlines to report their financial management and health. This is an essential piece of the evaluation process for schools to maintain their charter.

The charter schools each had its own financial application. Many, however, did not use the systems because they were cumbersome and did not provide the level of financial tracking, such as grant management, required to produce accurate reports.

Additionally, the financial system used by SLC did not have the capacity or flexibility to provide effective financial management on behalf of the charter schools.

The schools could not continue to hire staff to manipulate the financial system it had in place. Nearly 47 percent of charter schools fail because of financial management issues and problems.

The School Leadership Center is powered by:

► **Financial Edge™**

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## Solution

As part of its collaboration, the SLC determined that a new financial system was necessary.

Because each school operates on its own, an individual system was needed for each to enable each school's own financials.

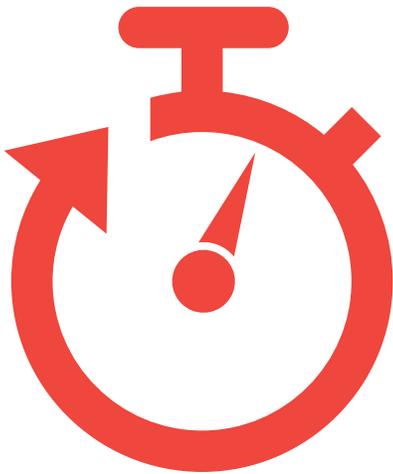
Through the gift of a grant, the SLC selected Blackbaud's **Financial Edge™**. Financial Edge enabled SLC to establish four individual databases in the system.

Using **Blackbaud Application Hosting™** to host Financial Edge, SLC not only saves the time and cost associated with maintaining and upgrading the software and necessary hardware, it is also able to give each school access to its database remotely.

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, it was apparent to SLC that hosting such vital information through Blackbaud was necessary to ensure that data was safe should such a disaster occur again.



Using Blackbaud hosting was necessary to ensure that data was safe should a disaster occur.



Financial Edge has reduced the time to process payroll from two days to half a day.

## Results

Since implementing Financial Edge, SLC has reduced the time to process payroll from two days to half a day.

The time required to complete an audit has also been reduced from five or more days to three days. This is attributed to the ease and availability of essential data and the reporting capabilities in Financial Edge.

Additionally, the charter schools are no longer missing deadlines and have effectively eliminated the problems associated with financial management helping to ensure that each school's charter is renewed and its students continue to receive the education they need.

Compared to a local provider, Blackbaud Application Hosting is half the cost – saving the SLC approximately 50 percent and providing the comfort of data backups and ensuring that should another natural disaster occur, its systems are available and accessible.

