

Prioritizing School Safety at Gresham-Barlow School District



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The challenge: Responding to needs while protecting public dollars

Gresham-Barlow School District's facilities team had to keep schools safe and running while making careful use of funds intended to support students' education.

When a security need arose, the time required to develop specifications and complete an RFP or RFQ would slow the district's response.

As one facilities leader explained, the team's expertise was in facilities and security. Preparing a procurement request could have taken months, potentially longer.

The solution: A compliant path through Sourcewell

Convergent and Sourcewell worked with Gresham-Barlow to simplify how the district addressed its security needs.

Through a Sourcewell contract, the district was able to discuss its priorities directly with Convergent, evaluate options, and move forward with transparent, competed pricing for labor and materials.

With pricing established through a competitively solicited contract, the team was able to focus more time on defining the outcomes it wanted to achieve.

Convergent could also recommend an approach when a different solution was a better fit.

The outcome: More focus on school safety

By working with Convergent and Sourcewell, Gresham-Barlow School District made it easier to address security needs while using public funds responsibly. The result was more time to focus on what mattered most: safe, welcoming schools where students could learn and participate.

GBSD at a glance

- **Location:** Gresham, Oregon
- **Schools:** 21 public schools, including elementary, K-8, middle, high, and charter schools.
- **Students served:** Approximately 12,000 students across the district.
- **Staff:** More than 2,000 employees

“It really pushes the safety to the top of the priority list rather than the procurement.”

— Terry Taylor, Director of Facilities,
Gresham-Barlow School District