

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DISTRICT MAKES HAZCOM COMPLIANCE “40% FASTER” WITH THE HQ ACCOUNT



Roque Martinez

Director of Operations
Selma Unified School District

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Selma Unified School District

- Serving 4,700 students on 11 campuses
- Located in California’s Central Valley
- A VelocityEHS customer since 2016

The Selma Unified School District serves over 4,700 students on 11 campuses in the city of Selma, California — a part of the Fresno metropolitan area in the state’s Central Valley. Selma is known as “The Raisin Capital of the World,” and the majority of the raisins produced in the United States come from farms immediately surrounding the city. The population utilizing the school district is steadily growing, heavily agricultural, and overwhelmingly speaks more than one language.

In 2015, Mr. Roque [“Rocky”] Martinez joined Selma Unified School District as Director of Operations. One of his first actions was to adopt the MSDSonline HQ Account, a VelocityEHS solution, to help manage the school’s chemical safety and compliance. Mr. Martinez reports that he initially sought *not* to make changes to hazard communication in his first year, but he revised this position when he saw what was needed in the district and what the MSDSonline HQ Account could do.

“When I arrived, the entire district was using paper binders for safety data sheets, and there was not a good system for indexing which SDSs we had on what sites,” explains Mr. Martinez. “Updating was difficult. Things were not as organized as they could have been. To get us where we needed to be, I realized I’d need to reinvent the wheel in my first few days. You’re told — that is, the conventional wisdom is always — never make a major decision or a major change in your first year on the job. But in this case, I had to. It couldn’t wait.”

According to Mr. Martinez, at the same moment he realized swift action was needed, a call from a VelocityEHS salesperson presented him with a solution.

“It just so happened that around this time I received a sales call from a rep about the MSDSonline HQ Account,” says Mr. Martinez. “After I talked to the sales rep, I pitched it to my boss, who agreed it was the right move. We talked about the GHS transition. I was very familiar with the

requirements it would bring. The schools in Southern California are very aware of GHS.”

After adopting the MSDSonline HQ Account, Mr. Martinez reports the Selma Unified School District began to see positive results almost immediately.

“Our situation became much better,” says Mr. Martinez. “The product keeps up with things, and keeps us in good shape. Also, what I want people to know is that the accessibility and the whole dashboard component is just amazing. I like the way it works. It’s so much better than doing things the old way. It means taking the time to train my other supervisors and employees — showing them how to use the system — but that comes very quickly and the benefits are big. I would say the SDS process moves about 40% faster than it did before. Things are better. More organized.”

Mr. Martinez also says that having the MSDSonline HQ Account has been



particularly beneficial considering that his school district serves a vibrant and rapidly expanding area.

“You also have to understand our school,” says Mr. Martinez. “As a school district for a community that is growing, we have a lot of new educators who are joining us for the first time. For these folks, an electronic way to engage with HazCom quickly and effectively makes things easier for everybody.”

Mr. Martinez concludes by noting that the MSDSonline HQ Account has been a catalyst for better organization throughout the school district.

“Organization is paramount, and the MSDSonline HQ Account helps us stay organized everywhere,” says Mr. Martinez. “Just the fact that I have somewhere that I can upload SDSs and share them easily with other employees is so valuable. Eventually, I want to evolve all my maintenance staff and my ground supervisors to have the level of comfort with the system that I do. I think that will take us to some really great places. I can’t wait.”



EDUCATORS FIND A POWERFUL TOOL IN THE HQ ACCOUNT

VelocityEHS has a proven track record of success helping educators of all types reduce risk, improve efficiencies, and move toward compliance. Educational campuses face a unique set of safety and HazCom challenges. Some hazards, like those associated with lab and science chemicals, are obvious, but others may be practically invisible to the average student or teacher. It falls to the safety professional to ensure that all necessary personnel receive required HazCom training and have mandated right-to-know access to chemical safety information like safety data sheets. No matter the size of your classroom, campus, or school district, VelocityEHS can provide a powerful suite of safety solutions tailored to meet your needs. From looking up common chemicals likely to be found in educational environments, to managing and tracking chemicals across multiple campuswide storage locations, our solutions help educational institutions easily meet all mandated compliance requirements while taking strong steps to protect students, faculty and staff.

Benefits of the HQ Account

Millions of MSDSs at Your Fingertips

24/7 access to the industry's leading database of safety data sheets ensures your company's library is up-to-date and in compliance.

Simplify Compliance

Easy-to-use tools help you meet hazard communication requirements (OSHA / WHMIS / GHS), including hazard determination, right-to-know access, labeling, safe chemical handling, PPE, and more.

Mobile Access for Chemical Management

Our online accounts are mobile optimized, and our free SDS/Chemical Management mobile app makes it possible to access SDSs and chemical inventory information offline, when internet connectivity is limited. With these mobile capabilities, critical chemical safety information is always at your fingertips! You can also scan barcode/QR code labels in-the-field for greater container-level control over the location, status and risk associated with the chemicals you use.

Regulatory Compliant

Multiple back-up options mean your system meets OSHA, WHMIS and other regulatory requirements for electronic safety data sheet /chemical management.

Quick ROI & Low Cost of Ownership

The HQ Account pays for itself by eliminating time-consuming, manual administrative tasks. Plus, there's no software to install or maintain, and you get immediate access to new features.

