

Simplicity: the Key to District-Wide Adoption



KalisPELL Public Schools (KPS), located in Montana, serves a diverse and highly transient student population. With frequent student movement and new open enrollment legislation, the district needed a secure, scalable, and easy-to-use platform to transfer sensitive student information such as health records, Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and enrollment files.

The adoption of SendSafely by KPS has been transformative, largely due to its simplicity and low barrier to entry, making it a success even among users with limited technical expertise.

"It's been just really easy for people to grasp and understand. Very rarely do we get somebody who says, 'I can't open this.'"

- Kyra Ocker, State Reporter / Data Analyst for Enrollment

The Challenge

KPS faced several key obstacles before SendSafely:

- **Compliance & Security Risks**

Sensitive student data is protected under FERPA and Montana's student privacy act (MTPOIPA). With hackers increasingly targeting student records for identity theft, secure transfer of this information became non-negotiable.

- **Highly Transient Student Population**

Frequent student movement between districts meant a constant transfer of records, sometimes 50+ pages of health, assessment, and contact information per student. Printing, faxing, or insecure email was inefficient and risky.

- **Low-Tech User Base**

Many staff members and external recipients were only comfortable with basic tools (like fax machines). For a solution to succeed, it had to be intuitive, familiar, and easy to adopt.

- **New Open Enrollment Legislation**

Open enrollment created a surge in paperwork, with nearly 800 parent-submitted forms last year alone, requiring secure digital intake and seamless routing to the right schools.



The Solution

KPS rolled out SendSafely district-wide as the standard for secure file transfer. Adoption was rapid because the platform's simplicity eliminated barriers for both senders and recipients.

Key Features Driving Adoption:

- **Gmail Integration**

KPS employees simply click the SendSafely orange lock button directly within Gmail to secure their email and attachments. This integration allows them to continue to “live in their email” with no new login or training required.

- **Hosted Dropzones**

Parents and partner districts can upload documents securely with a simple link, avoiding fax machines and snail mail. Dropzones are easy to set up and scale, with administrators able to configure and manage them in minutes.

- **Read Receipts**

Staff love the ability to see whether recipients have opened files, enabling proactive follow-up.

The combination of security and simplicity has had a measurable impact across the district:

- **Widespread Adoption Among Low-Tech Users**

Even staff resistant to digital change embraced SendSafely because of its “super easy” Gmail integration and intuitive workflows.

- **Improved Compliance**

With SendSafely mandated and reinforced by Google DLP policies, personal data can no longer be sent insecurely.

- **Operational Efficiency**

From enrollment to nursing and HR, departments reported significant time savings. For example, 800+ open enrollment transactions were securely processed last year without generating paper backlogs.

Cross-Department Usage:

- **Enrollment:** Secure transfer of large student files (20–50 pages) between districts.
- **Nurses:** Sharing sensitive health information with doctors and parents.
- **Special Education:** Distributing IEPs and assessment data securely.
- **HR:** Communicating benefits information with staff

Conclusion

Kalispell Public Schools demonstrates that simplicity is the key to adoption in education. By integrating seamlessly into everyday workflows, SendSafely empowered even the least tech-savvy staff and parents to securely exchange sensitive data. The result: a district-wide culture of secure, compliant, and efficient communication.

“When we sent out pages of invoices, people asked, ‘What do you use? I really like this.’”

– Kyra Ocker, State Reporter / Data Analyst for Enrollment

For more information on how your business can benefit from SendSafely or to start a free trial, go to www.sendsafely.com or email sales@sendsafely.com.

