

The xiTix 2009 Student Safety & Truancy Prevention \$100,000 Grant

THE CONCERN

Truancy is a very serious indicator for possible academic failure and truant students are at high risk for delinquency, early pregnancy, drug and alcohol use and physical injury. Youth who skip school are also more likely to be victims of crime or participants in crime. Recent studies have shown that two-thirds of male juveniles arrested while truant tested positive for drug use. According to one confidential survey, nearly 1 in ten 15 year olds were truant at least once a week. Further during a recent sample period in Miami more than 71 percent of 13 to 16 year-olds prosecuted for criminal violations had been truant.

Student safety is also a big concern. Some basic disturbing statistics:

United States Statistics for Missing Children –

- A child goes missing every 40 seconds in the U.S., over 2,100 per day
- 800,000 children go missing each year
- 90% are juveniles
- 50% are 4 to 11 years old
- Strangers commit 53% of child abductions that end tragically
- Average time before the parents know when the child goes missing is about 6 to 8 hours
- Another 500,000 go missing without ever being reported

[Source: www.amberalertregistry.org]

On a day-to-day basis, the most pressing concern about safety on school buses typically involves student behavior concerns and associated school bus discipline. School buses have simply become extension of schools, and security of students just not remains the school's responsibility while they are at school, but also while the students are being transported using a school bus.

Not just this, but with the influence of the media, hectic lifestyles, increasingly busy parents and worst of all sheer peer pressure, the best of and the most disciplined of children are coerced or influenced into truancy, resulting in the parents believing their children are at schools, when actually their whereabouts are unaccountable.

In another recent incident in Massachusetts, a five-year-old child from an elementary school gets left on the school bus which was parked in the company's lot for over an hour and a half. The bus driver supposedly said he had checked the bus. These incidents show how unreliable a manual child check could be, where there is always a scope of human error.

Security and safety does not remain only to the students being transported by school bus, it is also much needed to students who do not meet the general 2-mile busing threshold. For example, Florida state law requires that anyone living less than 2 miles from their school find their own transportation. Exceptions to the rule are allowed for disabled students as well as kindergarten through sixth-grade students who must walk through hazardous areas, but there's no provision for secondary students. The 30-minute trip takes a student across the busy seven-lane State Road, within blocks of 17 sex offenders and past numerous barking dogs. This makes all the more important for parents to know if their children get to school safely and that too at the right time.

The US School bus transportation system consists of over 4 billion vehicle miles per year – a significant portion of highway travel and a large number of children that are transported to school and back every day.

We must take action to ensure the highest levels of security for these children. The realities of the security risks and threats in school bus transportation therefore need to be seriously examined in order to identify and minimize risks and threats.

THE GRANT

Considering the growing need for Parents, Schools and Student Transportation authorities to address the issues of truancy and safety of the children on School transportation, as the base premise of this fund, we introduce a \$100,000 Grant.

This Grant will be awarded to a school/ schools, or a school district, equipping them with \$100,000 worth of state of the art hardware and technology supported by ReTSEr (Real Time Student Exception Reporting) and real time GPS Fleet Visibility.

The Grant will be awarded on first cum first serve basis, until the entire grant amount gets exhausted. Applications will be received and WINNER/s announced every month.

This Grant requires NO MATCHING FUNDS from the School/Schools and or School Districts.

Full details about the CSR initiatives from xiTix can be seen at the link below:

http://www.xitix.us/pages/new_pages/csr.html

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

The Grant will be awarded to **an individual school, multiple schools or a school district** (IRRESPECTIVE TO THE SIZE OF SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT) showing an effort towards their objective of implementing student safety across the school system.

The Grant is equivalent to the hardware and technology required to secure approx. 2500 students using the school transportation. And up to 5000 students without school transportation (*only an indicator*).

The applicant agrees to pay the discounted monthly service fee (*ReTSEER Online, Information Reports, Exception Reports, Real Time Data Transmission, GPS tracking, License & Maintenance Fees and Support*) of \$3.00 per student per month (*transportation and school*) or \$2.5 per student per month (*transportation only*) or \$1.5 per student per month (*school only*).

This excludes the installation cost per unit and cellular network charge as applicable per month.

Further, the Grant is also based on a number of criterions set by our expert panel to judge the most qualified applicant for the noble cause.

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- All application should be submitted by persons authorized by the School/ School District.
- All applications should be duly completed and a **scanned copy should be submitted by email, ONLY** to Grant@saha.net
- Proposals are first assessed to ensure that they fully comply with the general eligibility criteria of the program, as well as the specific eligibility criteria applicable to each applicant.
- A proposal is considered eligible if:
 - It fulfils the eligibility criteria and the conditions of the specific program for which it is submitted
 - It is submitted using the official application form, duly completed and signed as required.
 - It contains an official cover letter, one copy of the application form, all annexes to the application form wherever applicable,
 - Received via email, application via fax or post will not be processed.
 - Be submitted before 15th day of every Month.

- A private board of panelists appointed by xiTix reserves the right to reject any incomplete proposal.
- The Selection of the recipient/ recipients by the selection panel will be final.
- The panel will not state any reasons for any Application not selected.
- The Grant award is subject to the principles of transparency, equal treatment and non-discrimination. On this premise, specific sets of criteria have been defined with a view to ensuring a transparent selection procedure.

GRANT DOCUMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

1. **ANNEXURE II** – Cover Letter
2. **ANNEXURE III** – Grant Application Form
3. Other supporting documents as annexes to the application form (*if required*)

IMPORTANT DATES

EVENT	IMPORTANT DATES
Monthly Application Deadline	15 th day of every Month
Monthly Application Review	30 th day of every Month
Grant Awarded	5 th day of consecutive Month

NOTE: The **WINNER** shall be formally announced on the 5th day of every month and the details will be posted on www.xiTix.us

THE SPONSORS

xiTix

xiTix LLC

xiTix is a software and hardware integration company based in Melbourne, FL specializing in Real Time solutions for all applications using GPS, RFID and several wireless technologies. Integrated applications and solutions focus on providing Real Time information and to make quick, efficient and automated corrective actions that result in minimized costs and improved efficiency. xiTix provides real time solutions for Schools, Fleets, Logistic and Transportation companies, Libraries, BPO units etc.

Visit http://www.xitix.us/pages/new_pages/csr.html for more details on CSR initiative from the xiTix group.

ANNEXURE I

THE SOLUTION

ReTSER solution from xiTix, the flagship REAL TIME solution from xiTix, is completely a Non-Interactive, Non-Initiated, Non-Intrusive Real Time Exception Reporting System and has been designed keeping in mind the privacy and other rights of students. This system is not to be confused with a tracking system, as it does not retain student movement data, but only exception data.

The tracking service provided by xiTix is the interfacing of its RFID solutions and its GPS Fleet Visibility Solution. Designed especially for K12 schools, ReTSER solution takes care of increasing concerns of parents, schools and student transportation industry in this day and age.

Student accountability has become a major concern with increasing number of children becoming victim's crime, on their way to and from school, as well as while being truant. ReTSER is designed to start working from the time the child leaves home for school either on a bus or on their own and till he/she gets off the bus or on their own, while returning home. With ReTSER, parents and schools take steps to implement measures that would create alerts on a REAL TIME basis, of any exception to the routine that is detected and if things are out of the ordinary (*Exception Reporting*) in the arrival and departure patterns of their children from School.

ReTSER consists of:

1. School Bus System
2. In-School System.

The School Bus System is a unique way of knowing where your kids are at the moment. From the point of boarding the bus for school till the time the kid is dropped back by the bus after school. On any unusual behavior tracked by the system, it initiates alerts to the responsible or registered authorities such as parents, guardians or pupil transportation authorities on a real time basis. So consider, if anytime the kid has to get off the bus but for some reason has not gotten off, the system generates immediate alerts to all concerned, including the driver of the bus.

The In-School Attendance System performs an automatic recording of student entry and exit from the school premises with no manual intervention. The system sends alerts to parents,

guardians etc informing them of the kids absence from the school within the stipulated time that forces the system to initiate such alerts on a real time basis.

The School Bus Attendance system acts wireless whereas the In-School solution is flexible to handle using wired or wireless connectivity. For wireless communication the data transfer is through GPRS/GSM.

How ReTSER works?

Each Student is required to carry an Identity Card to School. This xiTix ID Card (XITAG™) replaces the existing ID Card (*if any*) and is mandatory for the students to keep this on their at all times while in school. This ID Card is unique and contains only relevant embedded student information that can only be read by the school system. ReTSER considers the issue of transmitting sensitive student information and hence does not transfer any such data but is still capable of linking to the school database identifying the card to the student. For extra security ReTSER works on a unique protocol and data encryption that can only be deciphered by the program installed in the server. For pre-school/ elementary school children may be equipped with bag/ belt clip ID Cards.

The system is not complete without the ReTSER hardware, which is installed in the School Bus and the school entry points. This system is designed considering the student's environment and typical behavior. Students are not required to place their card near the reader, as the System has the ability to detect the cards even if there is no line of sight. So weather the Student keeps it clipped to the belt, in the pocket or in the school bag for that matter, the system detects it.

Now the system is programmed to search for events based on predetermined student movement, as in bus pickup and drop off times, school start and school finishing times etc. Any exception detected prompts the system to send out alerts in the form of TEXT messages or emails based on the nature of exceptions.

Please note this system is not a monitoring system, but purely and EXCEPTION REPORTING SYSTEM, therefore the ReTSER name.

For example, in any school bussing system, every School bus route is predetermined, every stop is predetermined and the every student that gets on or off the bus is also predetermined. So whenever a bus stops at any pickup point the system looks out for this child. So when the bus leaves the stop, and the child is not on the bus, the system treats this as an exception and TEXT alerts the parent of this event. Now if you're Child is at home, and in bed with a cold, no problem, but if your child has left home and hasn't got on the bus, you are made aware instantly. Similarly the system is constantly monitoring the presence of the child on the bus, and if the child gets of any drop off point other than the child pre fixed drop off point the

system treats this as an exception and alerts the parent appropriately of this event with specific details.

We also install directional readers at the school entry points. So now when a bus student reaches school but does not enter the school, similarly a walk in student does not enter the school, by let's say 0810 Hrs (when the school time is 0800 hrs), the system notes this as an exception and text alerts the absence of the child to the parent, as well any departure from school before school getting over time. This again works the same way at the end of the school day, where if the system doesn't detect the exit of the child from the school, the system sends an alert to the parent accordingly.

All pre-scripted events are treated as exceptions, is reported ReTSER in REAL TIME with no delay for immediate counter steps. ReTSER does not breach any student privacy, as it does not track all student movements, but only the unusual movements (exceptions). This exception data is stored in a centrally located secure server.

xiTix GPS Fleet Visibility Solution is a state of the art solution that helps tracking, monitoring, controlling and managing the entire fleet of school buses in the most efficient way. One could achieve all this from the fleet control room or sitting at a desk while having real time information on the entire bus fleet. It does all the work ever needed from a Global Positioning system much more than only tracking the fleet of vehicles. The solution is capable of answering queries such as; What is the utilization of the bus fleet? What time the bus arrived or departed from school? What is the efficiency of the entire fleet? As well as, how the performances of the drivers are? To your surprise, it provides first hand information and helps maximize bus utility while minimizing operational costs to improve savings substantially.

How GPS Fleet Visibility works?

A specific school bus which has to be tracked for all its movements is required to have a GPS hardware device fitted inside the bus all time while it is on its routine trip. While it picks students from their homes to school and while it drops them home after school, or are on a special trip, the system remains always active. REAL TIME Visibility for student security and minimization of operational costs for the fleet owners remains the objective.

The system tracks bus movement on the map, geographic locations, stoppages, their exact time stamps, calculate fuel efficiency of the bus etc. The analyzed data allows Managers/ Supervisors to take business decisions proactively.

THE BENEFITS

xiTix ReTSER and GPS Fleet Visibility Solution is a combination of its powerful software and advanced hardware which offers many features and benefits. For ReTSER apart from the School Bus and In-School Attendance Reporting, it also has a single card interface which is expandable if schools require a Cash Free System for school canteens etc. The solutions come along with a web based software platform, which is accessible 24/7. The web-based platform allows dedicated reporting for student safety.

For more information on xiTix Real Time Solutions, please EMAIL prasad@saha.net or

VISIT www.xiTix.us or

CALL **1-888-522-1061**

ANNEXURE II

COVER LETTER

Date

**The 2009 Student Safety Grant
xiTix LLC
3210 Wickham Road
Melbourne FL - 32935**

Sub: Application for the 2009 Student Safety Grant

Dear Sir,

(The cover letter should contain a summary of your proposal, introduce your school (or school district) and summarize (if any) grants received within last 3 years from other organizations. Mention any co-funding that you are using from other sources, the population it will serve, and the need it will help solve. Also explain (less than 200 words); why you think your school (or school district) should be selected to receive this Grant?)

Regards,

(Name, Designation & Signature)
APPLICANT

ANNEXURE III
GRANT APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Mr/Ms
Designation:
Name of the School or School District:
Name of the Superintendent:
Name of the Transportation Director:
Address:
City:
State:
ZIP:
Telephone Number:
Fax Number:
Email Address:

ATTACH YOUR BUSINESS CARD
(OPTIONAL)



TYPE OF SCHOOL

Public Private Others

A. SCHOOL INFORMATION (If you are a School, please fill the information below)

1. Name of the School:
2. Number of Students in the School:
3. School System installed (if any), please specify: (attach separate sheet if required)

B. SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATION (If you are a School District, please fill the information below)

1. Name of the School District:
2. Number of Schools in the School District:
3. Number of Students in the School District:

C. SCHOOL TRANSPORT INFORMATION (If you are a School or a School District, please fill the information below)

1. Number of bus contractors serving the School or School District:

2. Number of Students being transported/ using school bus under the School or School District:

3. Total number of school bus routes under the School or School District:

4. Total miles covered each day by the school buses in the School or School District:

5. Number of Bus types used for transportation in the School or School District

Type A:

Type B:

Type C:

Type D:

D. GENERAL INFORMATION (If you are a School or a School District, please fill the information below)

1. Current safety initiatives for student transport (if any), please specify:
(attach separate sheet if required)

2. Current Student Tracking and Monitoring System installed (if any), please specify:
(attach separate sheet if required)

3. Current GPS system installed in the school bus (if any), please specify:
(attach separate sheet if required)

4. Current Bus Routing System (if any), please specify:
(attach separate sheet if required)

E. OTHER INFORMATION (If you are a School or a School District, please fill the information below)

1. Discuss your most immediate objective relating to School System, Student Transportation and Safety:
(attach separate sheet if required)

2. Discuss school district requirements, standards, policy, issues etc. relating to School System installation,
Student Transportation and Safety:
(attach separate sheet if required)

3. Discuss current year budget allocation to support service and maintenance charges, software license fees,
hardware installation charges per unit, support etc. :
(attach separate sheet if required)

4. Additional Information (if any):
(attach separate sheet if required)

F. Where did you hear about xiTix Grant? Please tick one or more boxes:

Media: School Transportation News Magazine School Bus Fleet Magazine Others

Internet/Website: xiTix website STN website NAPT website Others

Other Resources:
 Delegation _____ Referral _____
 E- marketing (e-mails & faxes) _____ Brochure _____
 Press Release(Article) _____ Trade Visit _____
 Others: _____

Do you allow **xiTix** to send you information on future Grant programs?

Yes No

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief all the particulars furnished in this application are true and accurate. I understand that if any information provided is found to be inaccurate, it will affect this application. I agree to abide by the laws, rules and regulations applicable in the Grant Program.

APPLICATION COMPLETED BY SIGNATURE DATE

Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applicants will be required to complete a detailed application form wherever relevant. The selection committee reserves the right to elicit additional documentation if required.
