

# MICHIGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT AT THE TOP OF THE CLASS WITH MSDSONLINE



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**Renee Sieggreen**

Business Office & Purchasing Office Professional  
Midland Public Schools

## Midland Public Schools

- District includes 11 schools
- Serves roughly 8,000 students from K-12
- Nearly 1,400 employees on staff

Located in Midland, Michigan, Midland Public Schools (MPS) is a public school district comprised of 11 buildings, including elementary, middle, and high schools. The district serves roughly 8,000 students in the community and has nearly 1,400 employees.

Until 2014, MPS relied on a traditional paper binder method to manage safety data sheets for an array of chemicals used throughout the schools. As the variety of chemical products increased over recent years, the responsibility of maintaining safety data sheets grew with it. MPS decided to move to a cloud-based safety data sheet management solution, and turned to MSDSonline.

Renee Sieggreen has worked as Business Office and Purchasing Office Professional for MPS for 14 years and is in charge of managing the district's safety data sheets. Discussing the decision to make

the change, Ms. Sieggreen emphasizes the large number of safety data sheets that must be kept for the safety of both students and staff, and the challenges that led MPS to adopt an MSDSonline HQ Account.

As in most school settings, the list of chemicals found in the district's schools covers many uses: personal and industrial cleaners (such as hand sanitizers and multi-surface disinfectants), laboratory chemicals (solvents, acids, bases), art supplies (paints, photographic chemicals), and healthcare equipment (mercury thermometers), to name a few. Although many schools don't have adequate processes in place to manage the dangers posed by these chemicals, MPS has long made it a point to stay on top of chemical safety – even when it involved a cumbersome manual process.

"We have to be very safety-oriented – if someone can ingest it, inhale it, or get it

on their skin, we need to have a safety data sheet for it," Ms. Sieggreen explains. "When we used paper binders, all our different buildings and departments had to have copies. The amount of paper was just unbelievable."

Additionally, Ms. Sieggreen says that after MPS teachers were given more autonomy in securing classroom supplies, the collection and organization of safety information under the old system became an increasingly daunting task. Methods for managing chemical inventory – such as referencing credit card statements to make sure all necessary safety data sheets were accounted for – became even more complex and time consuming.

"In my position I look at every credit card statement, and it was a challenge," she notes.

Ms. Sieggreen says that since adopting the MSDSonline solution it has not only been much easier to manage all of MPS's safety



data sheets, but it has also proven to be a significant time-saver.

“What I like most about MSDSonline is that I don’t have to go and search for an updated safety data sheet – they are updated automatically,” she reports. “The time that I spend looking for these documents has been greatly reduced. It’s unbelievable how many hours MSDSonline has saved me.”

According to Ms. Sieggreen, MPS’s high level of satisfaction with the HQ Account has the district looking forward to continued safety data sheet management with MSDSonline. She cites ease of use and above-and-beyond customer service as key factors of the service.

“The MSDSonline support people are the best, and are always helpful and knowledgeable,” Ms. Sieggreen concludes. “From the start, the support with getting this up and running was very, very good. Any time I asked a question, they were very happy to help, and they’ve even kept up communication to see how we’ve been doing along the way.”

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FIND A PARTNER IN MSDSONLINE

Educational campuses face a unique set of safety and HazCom challenges. Keeping track of chemicals can be particularly complex in these environments, as faculty often bring products into classrooms on an individual basis — leading to a wider, more unwieldy array of chemical information to manage. Plus, chemical management is particularly critical in these environments given the relative vulnerability of students and other stakeholders who may not be aware of the potential severity of the hazards around them.

Some hazards, like those associated with lab and science chemicals, are obvious, but others may be practically invisible to the average student. 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, MSDSonline has a proven suite of safety solutions trusted by leading educational institutions across the country. Our regularly updated library of millions of safety data sheets — the largest and most comprehensive in the industry — makes it easy to manage a compliant HazCom program.

From looking up common chemicals likely to be found in educational environments, to managing and tracking chemicals across multiple campuswide storage locations, MSDSonline’s solutions help educational institutions reduce risk, improve efficiencies, and move toward streamlined compliance.

## 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.

### Improve Chemical Management

Robust chemical management tools provide greater container-level control over the location, status and risk associated with the chemicals you use. Our free mobile Chemical Inventory Scanner app lets you scan barcode/QR code labels for in-the-field container management.

### Mobile-Enabled Functionality

Intelligent UI design delivers remote access to your chemical inventory information whenever and wherever you need it, via your mobile device.

### 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.

