



## Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation

### Overview:

- BCSC interested in standardizing on one LMS platform to maximize learning synergies across district
- itslearning platform integral part of District's Universal Design for Learning initiative
- Platform supports every way of learning

### Customer:

Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation,  
Columbus, IN USA



## 2015

Year Implemented itslearning

### District Profile:

 **45** miles south of Indianapolis, IN

 **12,500** students

 **17** schools

 **45%** free and reduced meals

### District Facts:

 **98%** itslearning user adoption

 **1:1** for grades 1-12

**UDL** district

## District Uses itslearning to Achieve Universal Design for Learning Goals and Consolidate Learning Management on a Single, District-Wide Platform

Learning management systems (LMS) are excellent at getting teachers, students, and parents on the same page, but only if those stakeholders are working with the same system. Up until last year, Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation (BCSC) in Columbus, Ind., was juggling numerous LMSs across grades K-12 and thus unable to achieve either maximized synergies across those solutions or achieve its Universal Design for Learning (UDL) goals.

### In Search of a Universal Solution

Intent in supporting every way of learning, BCSC held a strategic planning session that involved school leaders, IT

staff, and instructors. "One of the pieces that immediately fell out was the need for a consistent LMS," said Mike Jamerson, Director of Technology. "We had some teachers using Moodle, some using My Big Campus, and others using the proprietary Echo system, but what we really needed was a single, end-to-end platform that could serve all of our teachers and students across the district."

To find that solution, the district compared and tested out more than a dozen different LMSs against its own list of must-haves. At the top of that list was **Universal Design for Learning**, an instructional framework that recognizes the importance of student variability in learning and includes using multiple means of engagement; multiple



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**Mike Jamerson**  
Director of Technology

means of action and expression, and focuses on the elimination of any barriers to learning.

BCSC also wanted an LMS that could be universally applied across all grades, rather than being focused solely on the elementary or the high school classroom. Several products were eliminated based on this criterion. “They were one-dimensional,” said Jamerson, “and either lacked visual capabilities or otherwise didn’t fit our UDL framework.”

## The Right Choice

Throughout this process of elimination, itslearning stood out as BCSC’s top choice. One of the solution’s biggest advantages, for example, was the way it allows students to demonstrate mastery via videos, blogs, chats, and multiple other formats (outside of traditional testing).

“Because it was developed specifically for K-12 classrooms, itslearning incorporates streamlined curriculum management functionality, and focuses on proven pedagogical strategies like UDL that drive student-centered learning,” said Jamerson. “itslearning allows students to take control of their learning and be engaged while doing so, and it totally supports our universal design goals. This is just one place where itslearning certainly excels.”

## Putting the LMS Wheels in Motion

Starting with a team of 50 lead teachers that represented every BCSC grade level and school, the district began training a team of “pioneers” on how to use the new

LMS in January of 2015. It also began using itslearning’s professional development offerings. “Our intent was to use that PD as our testing board, to find out what else we needed to know as we rolled the system out across the district,” said Jamerson.

By spring break of the same year, BCSC was already exceeding its user estimates for the new system. That summer, it rolled out a full-scale itslearning implementation for the upcoming school year. Concurrently, the district deployed a full-scale 1:1 roll-out across grades 1-12 utilizing student Chromebooks and laptops program.

## Success Stories Abound

Today, about 98 percent of teachers and students are using the itslearning system. Nick Williams, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, said the implementation aligns well with the district’s strategic plan and nearly decade-long commitment to UDL. “As an organization,” said Williams, “itslearning has really grasped and met our needs.”

The new LMS’ impact has even been felt at the individual student level. When a speech-impaired student in the first grade was unable to communicate with teachers or other students, itslearning proved itself as a valuable facilitator. The student was invited to record videos on itslearning and share them with her classmates. This process gave her the confidence to begin communicating openly. “Now she’s talking to all of her classmates,” said Williams, “and even doing presentations for fourth graders on how to use the itslearning video tool.”



AT THE HEART OF EDUCATION

itslearning inc, One Gateway Center, Suite 702, Newton, MA 02458  
T: 1-888-853-2761 | www.itslearning.net | briefing@itslearning.com

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