Overview:
The Wayne County Metropolitan School District in Indianapolis selected itslearning LMS platform for its ability to serve as THE one place to:
  • Access Digital Resources
  • Migrate and Restructure Curriculum
  • Update Assessments for Digital Delivery

Customer:
Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township, Indianapolis, IN, USA

District Profile:
17 schools: 11 elementary and 2 middle schools, 1 ninth grade center, and 3 high schools
15,700 students approximately
78% free and reduced price meals

Demographics:
38% White
31% Black
24% Hispanic
6.39% Multiracial
0.74% Asian

Creating a Curriculum Management Hub

Even though administrators at the Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township in Indiana were satisfied with the teacher use of the district’s previous curriculum design platform outside the learning management system (LMS), they had not initially planned to shift curriculum management to the newly acquired itslearning platform. The district had used a LMS since 1999 and had already established two virtual schools and written hundreds of digital courses. The migration to itslearning came as Lightspeed Systems’ LMS platform; My Big Campus established a strategic partnership with itslearning.

Pete Just, the district’s chief technology officer, was pleased at the turn of events that led to the district’s implementation of itslearning as he had seen how well its implementation had served Houston ISD, who he considered a national leader in LMS and resource integrations. The itslearning features seemed the perfect fit to meet the district’s long-term LMS goals.

When Judy Stegemann, M.S.D. Wayne’s Assistant Superintendent for Academics, saw an initial demonstration in early 2015, she realized that they could expand their use of the LMS by moving the curriculum/assessment system into itslearning and directly tie it to instructional practice and professional collaboration.

M.S.D. Wayne rebranded their platform portal the Wayne Learning Hub and decided to take a year to ensure their new system was properly set up and...
Wayne Township Metropolitan School District

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their faculty was fully trained on the new instructional options. “Now we’re poised to help as they revamp their curriculum and instruction with a digital focus,” said Michele Eaton, Director of Virtual and Blended Learning.

Throughout the spring of 2016, teachers updated the district curriculum and assessment so as to take full advantage of the system’s personalized learning and electronic assessment capabilities. Collaborative online folders and subfolders for each unit enable teachers to work together and share DECKs (digital educational content for kids) with colleagues teaching the same course across the district.

Benefits

Stegemann appreciates that the new platform allows for electronic delivery of assessments. “Teachers can deliver it digitally to students just by a click of a button and then access that data,” she said. She is also excited about the ability to create online professional and student learning opportunities that address areas that need improvement, district-wide.

Eaton reported that teachers are excited about the platform’s integration with the district’s student information system and the prospect of no longer having to manually add or delete students from the system. “I’ve also witnessed a lot of excitement about the third party content that will be integrated. Teachers enjoy the seamless transition between accessing the curriculum and delivering it to students in the same platform,” she said. “Single sign on is an additional feature we are continuing to expand with this platform. Teachers and students will no longer have to juggle multiple logins for digital resources.”

Conclusion

The Wayne Learning Hub began its full implementation at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year. “In taking our time to get this done right, I think we created something that resonated and was very appealing for teachers,” said Just. “When they logged in to itslearning for the first time there was so much already waiting for them.”