



Rockdale County Public Schools

Overview:

- itslearning supports the districtwide 1:1 program
- System houses students' assessments, activities and discussions as well as teachers' curriculum resources
- Educators have one consistent platform for communication, collaboration, and training
- Educators also collaborate and receive PD training via the LMS
- Focuses on expanding learning options through specialized programs of study and virtual opportunities

District Profile:



23

11 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 3 high schools, 4 non-traditional schools and 1 virtual school

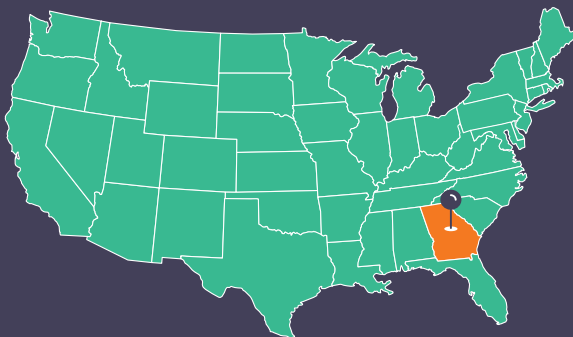


16,500

More than 16,500 K-12 students are enrolled

Customer:

Rockdale County Public Schools Conyers, Georgia USA



2015-16

Year Implemented itslearning

Demographics:

66% African American



15% Hispanic



14% White



3.4% Multi-Racial, Non-Hispanic



1.6% Asian



70.6% Eligible for free and reduced meals



LMS Becomes District Hub for 1:1 Instructional Support, Curricular Planning, and Professional Development

When Rockdale County Public Schools, located east of Atlanta, moved to a 1:1 model, an external audit showed that a robust LMS would help the new program live up to its full potential.

Rockdale County Public Schools

“It’s very simple to use, and it’s a very powerful product.”

Derek Fort, Director of Technology

Teacher and Administrator Support

In addition to facilitating the workflow of assigning tasks, reviewing student work, and providing instant feedback, itslearning serves as a center for educator communication, collaboration, and training.

Just as the system groups students according to their courses or interests, so too can educators form groups according to *their* roles. For example, all the school district principals belong to a principals group, which enables them to conduct group meetings, share documents, be assigned tasks, and share that work – all within the system.

District-level staff such as curriculum coordinators use the system to form online professional learning communities (PLC) for specific courses. “Our school district created master templates for the curriculum coordinators,” says Derek Fort, Director of Technology. “They populate the master templates with curriculum documents for all subjects.” The coordinators then use the system to deliver those files, e.g., pacing guides, calendars, model lessons, and so on, to every teacher’s online course folders across the school district.

Teachers also set up their own PLCs, either by building, grade level, or subject. Like the other educators, teachers use their online groups to create and share documents such as lesson plans, to receive task assignments, and share their own work.

Centralised and User-Friendly

Students in grades K-2 are also able to work in the LMS due to its ease of use. “It’s very simple to use, and it’s a very powerful product,” says Fort.

For educators, one of the elements contributing to the ease of use is the ability to distribute curricular documents to the teachers. Fort explains, “Teachers go to their course, and it is already populated with the documents that they need to do all their planning.”

Previously, Rockdale’s teachers had to visit several different sites to accomplish those tasks. Now, they benefit from the itslearning ambition of utilising just ‘One Login,’ including for Open Educational Resources (OERs). “Within itslearning, there is a library for teachers to use, making it an easy single resource for them. We are thrilled to have everything we need in one platform,” reports Fort.

The centralisation extends to students as well. All documents, resource links, and classroom assessments are delivered through itslearning, and all discussions and activities are hosted within the system.

Creating a Learning Hub

Rockdale educators are appreciative of the centralised resource. During their research on LMS options, they were especially struck by the ‘PowerUp: HUB’ model developed by the Houston Independent School District. “We liked how Houston used the LMS and modified their structure to suit our needs,” says Fort. “After two years, we continue to make adjustments as we learn new features and abilities of the system. It is great to have everything in one place for both teachers and students.”