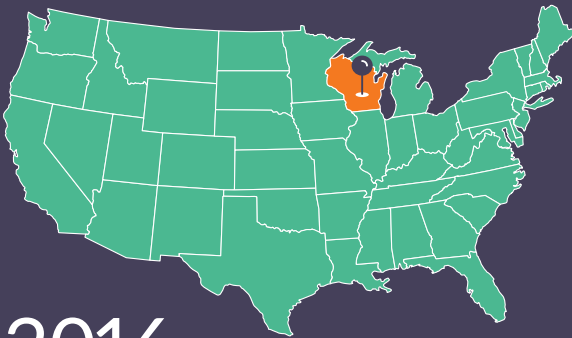# itslearning

Sun Prairie Area Schools

Overview:

- itslearning platform helps teachers gain efficiencies by centralizing standards-aligned content in one place.

- District's "Future Ready Schools for Sun Prairie Students" is supported by a single sign-on platform that's being populated with myriad digital resources.

- Platform allows teachers to experiment with new pedagogies, such as differentiated instruction for students in the same classroom.

Customer:

Sun Prairie Area Schools, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin USA

2016
Year Implemented itslearning

District Profile:

8,120
Students in 4th through 12th grade

12
Schools (7 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, one upper middle school, one high school, and an alternative learning school)

The fastest growing school district in the state of Wisconsin

Demographics:

73% Caucasian

11% Black/African American

7% Hispanic/Latino

5% Asian

End-to-End Learning Management System Reinforces Digital Learning and Helps District Create a Personalized Learning Platform

Working with the mantra, "Every child, every day," Sun Prairie Area School District (SPASD) is constantly looking for ways to teach every student in engaging and innovative ways, to reach them where they are, and to lead them toward full mastery of rigorous learning standards. But as the fastest-growing school district in Wiconsin, SPASD found itself using a patchwork of organizational platforms to support its digital learning initiatives. Google Classroom, Edmodo, Haiku, and Schoology, for example, were just a few of the platforms being used in lieu of a cohesive pedagogy and curriculum vision.

Seeking a better way to achieve its curriculum and instructional goals, SPASD implemented itslearning's end-to-end enterprise teaching and learning platform in 2016. Working closely with the district's director of technology, Nate Grundahl, technology integrator, coordinated an effort to choose the learning management system (LMS) with two key goals in mind: To find a platform that would serve as the foundation for SPASD's new 1:1 Chromebook program and that would also support its "Future Ready Schools for Sun Prairie Students" plan.

Sun Prairie Area Schools

"Having all of their resources in one place has made teachers and instructional technologists more efficient and more confident in their use of standards-aligned curriculum."

Nate Grundahl, *Technology Integrator*

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The Roadmap to Success

The district assembled a team of nearly 40 staff members to identify what it wanted from an LMS, and included curriculum leaders, teachers, and IT staff in the process.

Once assembled, that team kicked off the selection process by discussing the current state of the district and what it wanted from an LMS, and then developed a 50-question rubric around those key points. "We wanted our LMS to be able to answer those questions in some way, shape, or form," says Grundahl. One particularly important "must have," for example, was a centralized resource housed at a single site.

Early in the implementation process, SPASD's implementation team created a project management spreadsheet listing out key tasks, milestones, and objectives. "We call this our roadmap to success," says Grundahl. "We're looking at a two- to three-year timeframe for completion. Ultimately, we want our LMS to serve as a one-stop shop for all the digital resources that teachers and students need."

Having all of their resources in one place has made teachers and instructional technologists more efficient and more confident in their use of standards-aligned curriculum. "There was a certain lack of alignment among curriculum, instruction, assessment, and grading," says Grundahl, adding that teachers were almost immediately drawn to the fact that a LMS from itslearning would save them time and make their jobs easier.

"Once they heard that, we really didn't have to sell teachers on the platform," he says, "our teachers did the selling for us."

When the Stars Align

After the itslearning pilot period, the district's board of education approved a full rollout. Today, the district is using itslearning for curriculum management, content integration, and student rostering; itslearning also offers an easy-to-navigate, customizable standards-aligned planner.

Supporting New Pedagogies

At least for now, Grundahl says teachers aren't required to use itslearning, but doing so is "highly encouraged." Currently in the midst of a curriculum turnover, the district expects more teachers to use the platform once it's populated with current content. "We have more and more interest building in itslearning," says Grundahl, "and as that continues, more users will come onboard with it."

The LMS also supports early efforts at differentiated instruction—an approach that some instructors are experimenting with in their classrooms. "The students don't even realize that they're taking part in differentiated instruction," Grundahl explains. "That really plays into our vision of creating a personalized learning platform."