

Spring Branch Independent School District

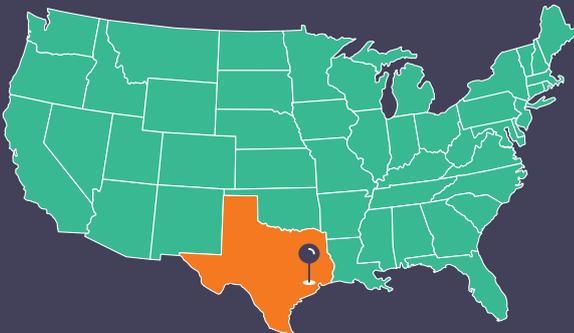
Overview:

Spring Branch Independent School District needed a Learning Management System that would:

- Streamline instructional planning and delivery
- Centralize curriculum resources and other materials onto a single enterprise platform
- Make anywhere, anytime learning possible while also enhancing student voice and choice

Customer:

Spring Branch Independent School District,
Houston, TX USA



2016

Year Implemented itslearning

District Profile:



46 Schools

8 High Schools, 8 Middle Schools, 26 Elementary Schools, 6 Early Childhood/Pre-K Schools

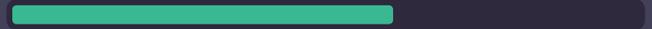


35,000

More than 35,000 students and 4,000 teachers and staff

Demographics:

60.3% Hispanic



26.6% White



6.4% Asian



4.6% African American



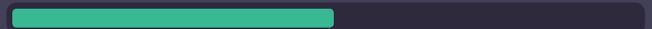
1.9% Two or More



0.2% Native American



56.0% Free/Reduced Lunch



34.4% Limited English Proficiency



Spring Branch ISD Uses the itslearning Enterprise LMS to Support Personalized Learning and Make Life Easier for Students and Teachers

Texas school district moves from using multiple curriculum resources to streamlining all of them onto a single, enterprise platform that supports learning 24/7.

Spring Branch Independent School District

“It was the wild, wild west, not only did teachers have to go to three different places for the content, but there was no consistency across those resources. Students and parents were frustrated by the sporadic and varied use of platforms.”

Karen Justl, Director of Educational Technology for Spring Branch ISD

Four Educational Pillars

With 46 schools and about 35,000 students, Spring Branch ISD had a fundamental goal in mind when it kicked off its search for an enterprise LMS, and that was to make life easier for its teachers and students. It began searching for a solution that would enable anywhere, anytime learning; enhance student voice and freedom; support holistic, actionable data; and support individual instruction.

These four pillars would serve as the key criteria for the district's final LMS selection. As a starting point, the district's IT team went to visit two other Texas districts, both of which were in the middle of 1:1 computing implementations and struggling under the strain of increased digital learning resources, and the need to centralize them on a single platform. “At the time, we were in talks about doing a 1:1,” says Justl, “but we held off and decided to create the curriculum infrastructure via itslearning before providing 1:1 student devices. Our plan is to encourage teachers to think about teaching and learning differently before a 1:1 implementation.”

Depending on the specific campus in question, Spring Branch ISD's teachers are being asked to develop activities on a regular basis to get students involved with and using the LMS. “Our superintendent has charged campuses with engaging 20% of the students in meaningful personalized learning by June 2018, and we are working towards that goal,” says Justl.

Curriculum Campouts

One of Spring Branch ISD's most successful implementations to date kicked off during the summer of 2017. Called “Curriculum Campout,” the event finds teachers collaborating and playing off one another to experiment with and develop new digital resources in the LMS. Spanning two days, the campout is a place where teachers can “dive into how they use curriculum tools to create learning experiences for students,” says Justl.

“They spend the entire second day planning as a team for the start of school,” says Justl, “and then we invite them back to continue the learning throughout the year.” Those frequent follow-ups help the district understand what did (and didn't) work once the teacher got back to the classroom. “That's been really powerful for us,” says Justl, whose department is now recruiting additional “rangers” to serve as liaisons between its 4-person team and the district's 2,500 teachers.

“We don't necessarily have anyone on the campus to drive this initiative,” she says, “so we're approaching some of the people who attended a curriculum campout last year and have flourished and we are enlisting them as rangers.”

Making Their Lives Easier

Using the itslearning LMS, Spring Branch ISD's teachers can effectively “clone” themselves. They can create instructional videos, for example, or give detailed instructions in a very clear and concise way for students who, in turn, don't have to keep coming back to ask questions.

“You can put everything that an independent learner needs right there in the platform,” says Justl. “That makes it easier to conduct small group instruction, because you can have other students working independently in the platform accomplishing goals, or even working collaboratively in the platform.”

Having all of their digital resources integrated in a single platform means Spring Branch ISD's teachers can easily pull that content into their lesson plans versus having to use the web or other resources to find that material. Plus, the platform helps to expand the learning day for students who now have 24/7 access to critical resources.

“The student who needed to slow down the instruction, or the student who was ready to move on, can both access the materials they need to achieve those goals,” says Justl. “They're not just waiting around for the teacher to set the pace for their learning.”