



Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation

Overview

- BCSC interested in standardizing on one LMS platform to maximize learning synergies across district
- The district wanted an LMS that would integrate directly with Google
- itslearning platform integral part of district's Universal Design for Learning initiative

Location

Columbus, IN, USA



Results



Profile



2015

Year Implemented itslearning

Demographics

70% Caucasian

6% Black/African American

16% Hispanic

7% Asian

Pedagogy Meets Productivity for a District that Uses Direct Google/itslearning Integration to Transform K-12 Learning

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. For Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation (BCSC) in Columbus, Ind., juggling numerous LMSs across grades K-12 pushed maximized synergies across those solutions—and the district's Design for Learning (UDL) goals—squarely out of reach.

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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 Nick Williams, 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 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 Williams, “and either lacked visual capabilities or otherwise didn’t fit our UDL framework.”

Wanted: Google Integration

From its new LMS, the district also wanted a solution that would automatically integrate with Google, thus giving teachers a wide berth for selecting what curriculum to use in their 1:1 classrooms. It found what it was looking for in the itslearning LMS platform. With approximately 5 million learning resources included in its curriculum, all of which are accessible 24/7 on itslearning, teachers now have ready access to all of the high-quality academic content that they need.

“It’s opened up a whole new world where students can express themselves in what they know all in one location,” added Williams, “be it through video, audio, or any of Google’s free tools.” A non-verbal student or one who has impaired hearing, for example, can get the appropriate, assistive tools quickly and without interrupting the learning process.

“The fact that our LMS integrates with Google is tremendous. It links all of our learning tools together, which equates to much less work on the teacher’s end in terms of collecting and organizing content,” said Williams. “It also gives kids the freedom to use the tools they’re already comfortable with and engaged with.”

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 Williams.

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 laptop programs.

Success Stories Abound

Today, about 98 percent of teachers and students are using the itslearning system. BCSC has enjoyed a 90% graduation rate, and students have an 87% college retention rate. Since itslearning has been deployed, BCSC saw its AP test passing rate improve from an already impressive 63% to 70%, an increase 3.5 times that of the state average over the same period. Williams 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 her classmates,” said Williams, “and even doing presentations for fourth graders on how to use the itslearning video tool.”

