

Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation

Overview:

- itslearning supports the district-wide 1:1
- LMS offers Google integration
- Delivers a tech-enhanced tool centered on teaching, collaboration, and assessment
- Serves as a centralized hub and digital playground for teachers and students in grades K-12

District Profile:

Third largest school corporation in the state of Indiana



37 Schools

4 Pre-K programs, 17 elementary schools, 7 middle schools (which includes 4 K-8 Schools) and 9 high schools including 5 Specialized schools: New Tech Institute; Early College High School; Virtual Academy; STEM Academy; Academy for Innovative Studies and 1 Career and Technical Center -- Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center (for students from five counties)

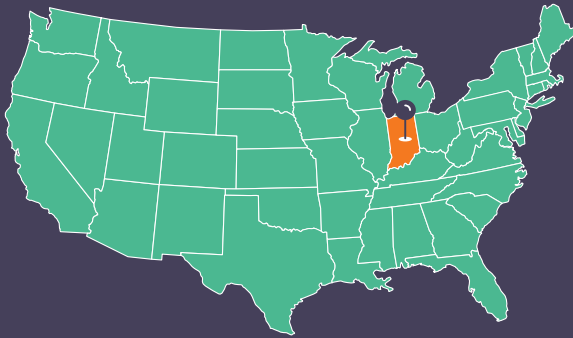


23,000

Students

Customer:

Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, Evansville, IN



2016-2017

Year Implemented itslearning

Demographics:

9% African American



2.2% Hispanic



86.5% White



2.3% Multi-Racial, Non-Hispanic



1% Asian



59.3% Eligible for free and reduced meals



Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation Amplifies the Learning Process with itslearning

When Spanish teachers use a learning management system (LMS) to record their words as objects and then ask students to interact with that content, encourage pupils to record themselves reading a short passage in Spanish, or build out a digital learning space where students, teachers, and parents can seamlessly interact, the positive impacts on teacher efficiency and student engagement come to light pretty quickly.

Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation

That's exactly what happens on a daily basis at Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC), where the itslearning LMS serves as a centralized hub and digital playground for teachers and students in grades K-12. The platform's flexible architecture also allows teachers to bring in "outside" web tools and other functionalities, thus expanding the LMS and letting it "live outside of the itslearning space," says Tim Wilhelmus, the district's innovation, curriculum, and technology specialist.

"An LMS can just be a resource dump, but we didn't want ours to be that way," says Wilhelmus, who points to the itslearning LMS's planner and pages features as two of the platform's most useful functionalities. "Having a structured space in which to work and imagine the learning—and then push that to the calendar or to the front-end of the course for immediate access by the students—is very useful."

Exploring its LMS Options

With 37 different schools, 1,600 educators, and 23,000 students—nearly all of whom are on the school's 1:1 laptop/device program—EVSC started looking for a new LMS to replace My Big Campus last year. The district did a "pretty robust RFP," according to Wilhelmus, and explored at least 15 to 20 different options, all with the goal of finding an LMS that the entire school corporation would commit to. After narrowing its choices down to three options, EVSC invited a group of teachers to test the solutions out and provide feedback on their experiences.

From its new LMS, EVSC wanted to be able to provide teachers with a tech-enhanced tool centered on teaching, collaboration, and assessment. Wilhelmus says itslearning rose to the top fairly quickly based on its broad scope, the multiple, built-in curriculum and content organization capabilities that enable teachers to dynamically plan and connect all teaching and learning activities with learning objectives and the fact that it could be used at the primary grade level. "Most LMSs don't think about those younger grades," he points out.

Using itslearning, our teachers create pages and gather all relevant notes, files, links, tests, and other content in one place. This functionality provides a clear overview and easy access for learners to access content (rather than requiring them to access everything from the "tree" menu). "Pages was a big draw for us," says Wilhelmus. "There's something about being able to create a sort of 'digital playground' of experiences that's also visually appealing." This and other tech-enhanced items within the LMS not only encourage students to ask better questions, he adds, but they also help them engage more fully with the learning material.

The Google Integration Piece

itslearning also offered Google integration—an important "must have" for a district where most teachers were already using Google Apps for Education. Being able to integrate GAFE with the new LMS meant that teachers could continue to utilize Google Slides, Docs, Spreadsheets, and other programs without the need for customizations. "Our teachers wanted to know that they could have the same experience as simply using Google Docs," says Wilhelmus, "and pull it into the LMS so students could easily access the content."

Currently in the early stages of integrating GAFE into its LMS, Wilhelmus says the integration allows EVSC's teachers and students to fully leverage Google's collaborative atmosphere. For example, instructors can create an activity based on a Google slide deck, and then ask students to contribute to that slide show. "That can all happen right inside of our LMS," he says. "This is useful because it doesn't require teachers to send their pupils out to a different digital space. And it's important because students are more likely to be successful if they're working intuitively in a space that they're comfortable in, and not having to figure it all out."

Amplifying the Learning Process

For EVSC, itslearning helps teachers plan, engage, assess, and report on student success in a very efficient manner, and all without having to log into multiple systems or access outside resources to retrieve that actionable data.

With the district's early adopters onboard, Wilhelmus is now working to "push out" the LMS to the next phase of users. "We want to deploy the resources that schools need to achieve their individual goals," says Wilhelmus, "while also helping people understand what an LMS can do to simplify their lives and amplify learning."

