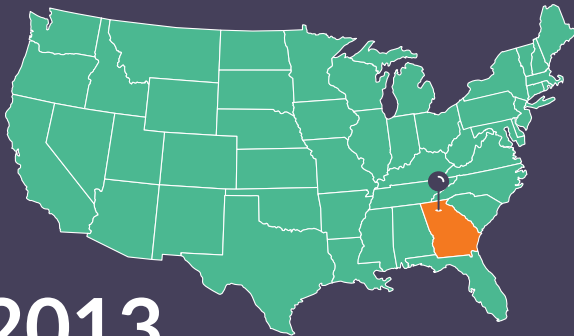# its learning

AT THE HEART OF EDUCATION

Forsyth County Schools

Overview:

- itslearning platform supports an ongoing commitment to new pedagogies like blended learning and flipped learning.
- Students have voice and choice in their own learning.
- Snow days and sick days no longer prevent students from doing schoolwork and staying on track with assignments.
- Centralized resource courses for instructors enable effective district-wide collaboration and curriculum development.

Customer:

Forsyth County Schools, Cumming, Georgia USA

2013
Year Implemented itslearning

District Profile:

50,800+
50, 800+ students representing 124 countries, 52 languages and the largest employer in the county with over 7,000 staff members

7th
7th largest out of 180 Georgia public school districts having grown 56% over the last 10 years

38 Schools
38 schools (21 elementary, 10 middle, and 7 high schools, one virtual 6-12 school, and will open 4 new schools by 2022)

Demographics:

55% White

23% Asian

14% Hispanic

4% African American

4% Multi Racial

Large Georgia School District Uses its LMS to Create a Cohesive, Dedicated Approach to Personalized, Differentiated Learning

When Forsyth County Schools introduced its teachers to blended and flipped learning, the district was quick to point out that the new models wouldn't replace those instructors or usurp their day-to-day classroom activities. Instead, these new pedagogies would support what those instructors were already doing in the classroom and help them deliver a more differentiated, personalized learning experience to students.

Understanding that not all students learn at the same pace, nor are they all at the same academic level (even if they are in the same grade), the Cumming, GA-based district set out to find a centralized learning management platform that would support its new commitment to personalized learning. It found what it was looking for in itslearning, an end-to-end Learning Management System (LMS) that supports digital learning and differentiated instruction.

Forsyth County Schools

"With itslearning, teachers were able to limit students to only seeing materials that would actually help them with remediation or enrichment, whereas other resources were left open for all pupils to see and access."

Ruth Allen, Coordinator of Instructional Technology

Blended and Flipped Learning Support

Using an *Investing in Innovation* grant, Forsyth County Schools initially rolled out the LMS with an emphasis in ELA, math, and special education. Ruth Allen, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, says the LMS was used to deliver information and content to students, and also to assess those pupils' performance and growth. The district mandated LMS usage at seven of its schools and, after seeing the platform in action, several others voluntarily followed suit.

As an instructional technologist, Allen and her team were tasked with visiting the participating schools and training teachers on how to use the platform. They provided training courses on personalized learning, flipping the classroom, and differentiated instruction.

"With itslearning, teachers were able to limit students to only seeing materials that would actually help them with remediation or enrichment," says Allen, "whereas other resources were left open for all pupils to see and access." Those differentiated options gave students more voice in the classroom and encouraged otherwise-shy students to participate in class.

"We quickly saw students who weren't always engaged in class, and who were kind of timid and shy about talking out in class," says Allen, "become more interactive and engaged when they used itslearning to share their thoughts and opinions."

No More Snow Days

Forsyth County Schools' LMS has also helped the district replace the notion of a "school day" with "anytime learning"—a goal that was accomplished by implementing a platform that students, teachers, and parents can access anytime and from anywhere. "If there's a snow day or some other reason a student can't get to school," says Allen, "the learning still comes through itslearning."

Today, many of the district's teachers use the LMS to facilitate personalized learning with pathways. A student, for example, will take a pretest at the beginning of a unit and—based on his or her score—be directed to specific units that need to be completed for the course. Students complete those activities, which are tailored to their specific needs, and are then tested again on comprehension.

"This is just another good example of how itslearning allows the teacher to meet the students where they are," says Allen.