

Small District Takes Strategic Approach to Personalized Learning




Loving Municipal Schools, NM

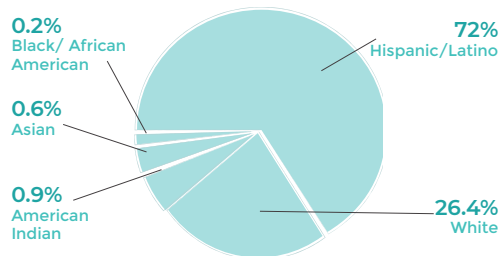


Digital Curriculum Solutions

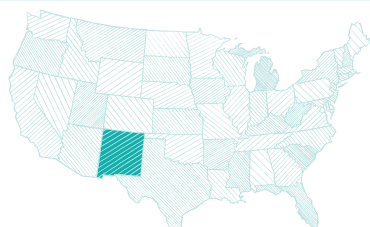
- ✓ Courses for Credit Recovery & AP®
- ✓ Virtual Learning

District Profile 2016-2017

-  Rural District
-  3 Schools
-  535 students



- ✓ 100% Economically disadvantaged
- ✓ 11.4 % ELL program
- ✓ 16.1% Students with disabilities



Challenge

Loving Municipal Schools elected to review their current digital curriculum provider due to a plethora of issues around student performance and program implementation. Students didn't find the material engaging and weren't motivated. In addition, the district needed to address the challenge of a regional teacher shortage that made it difficult to find qualified, bilingual teachers for AP Spanish.

Solution

The district partnered with Apex Learning to offer digital curriculum that had a higher level of rigor and engagement than the previous provider. AP Spanish students can still access high-quality content with supports and scaffolds that fill in learning gaps and prepare students for challenging coursework. For all students, educators can now provide immediate personalized intervention, as well as support the wide range of student needs, including credit recovery and core foundations classes for students with special needs.

Results

The district's structured program for blended and virtual learning has helped more students increase achievement. 100% of students taking AP Spanish received qualifying AP scores in 2018, up from 75% two years previous.

More Than Just Credit Recovery

When Loving Municipal Schools switched to Apex Learning in 2014, the district started with credit recovery but realized that they could do much more. “[Apex] is so much more robust than that,” said Superintendent Lee White. They didn’t want digital curriculum that would essentially be a credit mill—they wanted the education their students received to be meaningful. “We use our small school advantage to make sure each student receives a personalized education and ensure that no student is overlooked,” said Superintendent White.

Loving Municipal Schools uses Apex Learning to meet the needs of struggling students in both middle school and high school. Summer school programs provide remediation and help students fill learning gaps, specifically math and reading for middle school students and credit recovery for high school students.

Although the district doesn’t have the resources to create an early college program, Loving High School is based on the early college model. Access to high-quality digital curriculum and support for AP courses, as well as CTE-aligned electives, has enabled some students to graduate with an associate degree. The success of the AP Spanish students motivated other teachers to use Apex Learning AP test prep and courses.

“I am pleased to partner with Apex for all of our online needs and highly recommend them to any district who desires to have a viable e-learning program that places fidelity first and foremost.”

Lee White, Superintendent

Strategies for Success

Superintendent Lee worked with his team to put in place specific strategies for the use of Apex Learning digital curriculum:

Strategy #1: The class facilitator must implement stringent classroom practices

Assigning a dedicated class facilitator is key to ensuring that students understand what is expected of them and how they must conduct themselves. The facilitator should have the students take the pre-assessment to identify their strengths and weaknesses for a set of standards. Superintendent Lee emphasizes that “defining the rules and policies within the classroom will help determine the overall success of your program and, ultimately, its viability!”

Strategy #2: Students must complete every task within each unit

For students to successfully progress through the course, they must complete the reading, practice problems, writing, and post-unit test. This is a key point that, if overlooked, leads to a student who is unable to master the skills necessary for grade advancement. The facilitator should be adept at managing instruction so that students move through the content as needed – students can’t skip material unless they’ve demonstrated mastery.

Strategy #3: Students must actively take notes

Another meaningful task teachers require of their students is to actively take notes on the reading (similar in nature to Cornell Note process) within each unit. These notes help the students further comprehend the key points, vocabulary, and passages.

Learn more about Apex Learning digital curriculum solutions:

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