

A+ Success Story



Setting Standards

Delta Middle School Builds Credit-Recovery Program on A+LS™.

David Styler, the principal at Delta Middle School (Delta, Utah), is an educator with vision. Several years ago, when he noticed that some students at Delta were having trouble mastering subject matter, especially science and math, he implemented a credit-recovery program to help struggling kids advance to the next grade level. Styler selected the *A+nyWhere Learning System*® (A+LS™) courseware program from The American Education Corporation to facilitate the aggressive credit-recovery program he envisioned for his middle school.

“There was a time when our students felt it was okay to fail,” says Styler. “They would let things slide and move to the next grade unprepared. Instead of holding them back, we decided it would be more beneficial for them to work toward mastering the subject material—while there was still time—to avoid having to take the course over.”

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DELTA MIDDLE SCHOOL, DELTA, UT

At a Glance

School Location: Delta, UT

Challenge: Students struggling to advance to the next grade level, particularly in science and math.

Solution: Internet browser-based implementation of the *A+nyWhere Learning System* to facilitate an aggressive credit recovery program.

Result: A courseware program tailored to Utah State standards not only prevented struggling students from failing their grade level but also keeps students from having to repeat classes.

To achieve his goals, Styler implemented A+LS and asked all of Delta’s teachers, a group of approximately 40 educators, to examine everything available within the courseware program and align that material as closely as possible with Utah’s required core curriculum for their subject specialty. Today, when a Delta Middle School student has remedial work to do, they learn fundamentals that match closely with the State’s standards. When they complete the A+LS curriculum successfully, it is proof of competency in the subject area; Styler is able to pass them to the next grade without forcing

them back into the classroom to take the subject a second time.

Delta Middle School serves approximately 400 students in grades six through eight. Styler was initially attracted to *A+LS* because of its broad curriculum and the numerous lesson plans geared toward a middle school environment. The program contains more than 5,400 lessons; at least 200,000 content pages of research and objective-based, problem-solving, K-12 courseware; plus assessment, alignment, and curriculum management tools.

Further, Styler was intrigued by the courseware's online capabilities. He saw added value in giving students access to the tool online. For instance, students who are homebound or in an alternative study environment are allowed to access *A+LS* remotely. "The online capability provides us with some mobility, but more importantly, it makes it possible for many students to access the program simultaneously within the school building," says Styler.

Styler is adamant that students should come to school to use the courseware program in the *A+LS* lab he established to facilitate its use on school grounds. Styler has also instituted an

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after-school *A+LS* tutoring lab that is staffed by Delta teachers. Students are encouraged to go to the lab and do their *A+LS* work on an independent basis. Teachers are there to help them if they have questions or issues with the computer. "Basically, students there can go online, pull up lists of assignments, and work their way through them," Styler adds.

Styler has been pleased with the results he's seen.

"Today," Styler says, "students know there is a curriculum standard and that we have a tool to help them accomplish their learning objectives. Instead of assigning punitive 'busy work' or asking them to write reports to get their grades up, we're providing a tool so they can truly master the material."

According to Styler, Delta's teachers like using *A+LS* because it gives them the ability to adjust lessons to the age level of the students. The courseware puts the material in an age-appropriate language that makes mastery of the subject matter easier. "*A+LS* helps students review the concepts over and over until they are able to master them," says Styler. "We like that the lessons are clear and well thought out. It has a lot of good benefits for students."

As an example of how *A+LS* benefits Delta students, Styler points to the case of a student

who had failed several classes and was faced with the unpleasant prospect of repeating a grade. “The student wasn’t just failing a class,” says Styler. “He wasn’t prepared to advance to high school because of how far he’d fallen behind.”

While discussing options with the student and his parents, Styler talked about the success he had with *A+LS*. The student took advantage of the *A+LS* opportunity that Styler provided. “He came in and worked on *A+LS* all summer,” says Styler. “He continued working right up until the next school year began. At that point, we brought him in to take UTIPS, an alternative assessment exam, which he passed. Without *A+LS*, he would not have been able to pass the UTIPS exam—he had truly mastered the materials.”

There have been many other students like the boy Styler describes who have benefited tremendously from the power of *A+LS*. The courseware tool is something Styler is proud to have championed, and he looks forward to it benefiting current and future generations of Delta Middle School students.



Delta Middle School

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About The American Education Corporation (AEC)

Early recognition of the national trend in school accountability, combined with an understanding of the impact of the Internet on education, has allowed AEC to become an industry leader in e-learning solutions. Few education companies offer the systemized combination of formative assessment, proven instruction, alignment to standards, and data management and reporting capabilities of AEC’s comprehensive courseware and learning management system.

The *A+nyWhere Learning System*® (*A+LS*™) software program is an e-learning solution ideal for schools searching for more efficient ways to improve their instructional processes. The *A+LS* courseware program consists of an award-winning instructional management system supported by significant core curriculum content for grades K–12 and adult learners delivered through a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), or the Internet. The research-based curriculum content is in the subject areas of Reading, Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, Writing, and Social Sciences. This curriculum is linked to state standards and combined with valuable formative assessment tests designed to guide instruction throughout the school year — as well as give school administrators the data they need to ensure maximum student performance.

Would you like to learn more about the *A+nyWhere Learning System*?

**Give us a call at 800.480.3935 to arrange a custom product demonstration
with Backbone Communications, your local licensed product reseller.**

You can also check us out on the web at www.BackboneCommunications.com