



# Success Story



## No Student Left Behind

**Chester County High School uses courseware to help kids get back on track... and stay on track.**

Chester County High School is tucked away in the western Tennessee town of Henderson, 120 miles west of Nashville. They may be small, but their level of education had always been well respected within the community. But, even though Chester County High School consistently ranked among the best in state student performance assessments, in the 2004-5 school year, they were surprised to find that they had not met adequate yearly progress as defined by No Child Left Behind. They knew they had to find a tool to help all of their students succeed.

“Our school administration started researching strategies to increase the number of students who completed requirements on time for graduation,” says Troy Kilzer, II, principal of Chester County High School.

“Our school began the credit recovery program in the spring semester of 2005 and had immediate success.”

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CHESTER COUNTY HS,  
HENDERSON, TN

They knew technology could be the ideal method to help them increase student performance. They had already implemented a successful classroom courseware program that provided additional curriculum support for teachers. To supplement core instruction, Chester County High School had been using the *A+nyWhere Learning System*<sup>®</sup> (*A+LS*<sup>™</sup>) courseware program from American Education

### At a Glance

**School:** Chester County High School, Henderson, Tennessee

**Challenge:** Meet AYP graduation rate by increasing the number of students completing on-time graduation requirements.

**Solution:** Wider implementation of the *A+nyWhere Learning System* to prepare students for state tests and to recover course credits.

**Results:** Graduation AYP met. Students enrolled in the credit recovery program recovered at least one course credit. Many recovered two or three course credits.

Corporation (AEC). *A+LS* is an e-learning solution that offers state-aligned core curriculum content and an instructional management system that was perfect for their needs. Because they had seen first-hand the depth and breadth of this program, they decided to implement the courseware on a wider scale to help students for test preparation and credit recovery.

The nature of the courseware was perfect for this end use. *A+LS* assigns students specific instructional content informed by short, frequent assessments of progress, while tracking individual student performance over time. This continued pre- and post-assessment allows instructors and administrators to easily identify individual student learning needs, and to deliver the specific instruction each child needs to do well on high-stakes testing.

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“Our school began the credit recovery program in the spring semester of 2005 and had immediate success,” reports Mr. Kilzer. “I attribute the success of our credit recovery program to the installation of the *A+LS* coursework in our computer lab. In the initial semester, forty-seven students were enrolled in the program that either occurred before or after school. An overwhelming majority of those enrolled recovered at least one credit and in some cases, students recovered two or three credits.”

This credit recovery program grew during the following summer where a majority of the students enrolled recovered at least one credit. They continued the program into the following school year, and now there are sixty-two students enrolled. Mr. Kilzer is very pleased with the variety of courses now available to his students.

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Student studies an *A+LS* coursework lesson on Plains Indians.

## Courseware Helps at All Levels

Teachers appreciate that the *A+LS* courseware provides another tool for teaching the curriculum based upon their state's standards. Assessment tests in the *A+nyWhere Learning System* program test students on specific learning objectives defined by any standard set by the school or district. This provides educators with the additional capability to easily assign students, individually or in groups, all instructional content.

“The *A+LS* allows teachers using the lab to differentiate instruction based upon the students' ability levels,” says Mr. Kilzer. “Compared to a traditional classroom instructional period, students in the *A+LS* computer lab are tremendously more engaged during instruction. Teachers are also able to generate several reports that track students' progress and speed.”



Two students study their assigned English lessons in the lab.

Kilzer states students really enjoy the interactive nature of *A+LS* courseware and the reward “apples” kids get as they answer questions correctly and master skills.

“The positive reinforcements offered by the courseware encourage students to be more engaged in the instruction,” he says. “When the students are using the study portion of a specific subject coursework, the program includes examples, pictures or graphs to support the learning.”

The program offers teachers the ability to assign a pre-test for each lesson. Where a student has already

attained a proficient level of competency, the program allows him or her to progress to the next level. This makes the *A+LS* courseware an individualized learning program that supports a wide range of student ability levels.

“As an administrator, I appreciate the number of reports that can be generated based upon students’ performance,” says Kilzer. “I also appreciate the amount of time spent with every student with engaging learning.” No more hiding in the back of the room, he says. “Every student using the *A+LS* courseware has to participate. This increased participation in learning has increased the students’ retention of the knowledge.”

## The Results

Since implementing the *A+LS* program, Chester County High School’s graduation rate has met adequate yearly progress. The other nice benefit of the credit recovery program is that students have a restored hope of graduating on time.

“With that restored hope, our school has minimized the number of dropouts,” says Kilzer. “For the 2003-4 school year, the student dropout rate was 2.6%. For the

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2004-5 school year – the first year of using *A+LS* software for the credit recovery program – the student dropout rate dropped to 0.7%. The number of student discipline referrals related to disruptive behavior in the classrooms has also minimized.”

Kilzer has been thrilled with the results. “I am a more effective administrator when I can encourage students to continue their educational goal of graduating on time. The *A+LS* courseware provides the light at the end of the tunnel.”

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## About 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 vendors 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*<sup>®</sup> (*A+LS*<sup>™</sup>) 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 one through 12 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 800.222.2811 to arrange a custom product demonstration with your local licensed product reseller or check us out on the web at [www.amered.com](http://www.amered.com)