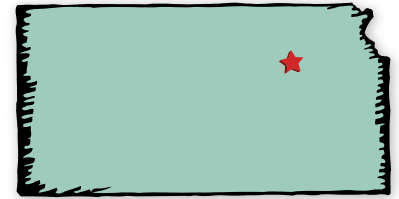


A+ Success Story

Geary County Schools, Kansas



Consistent Reporting Meets Diverse Student Needs

How Geary County Schools uses courseware to help get a transient student population back on track.

When Geary County Schools in Junction City, Kansas was invited to participate in a dropout recovery program, they hesitated. They had already invested time and energy into their alternative school, and were looking for resources to reach out to their varied student body.

“We are probably the most diverse student population in the state,” says Larry Dixon, assistant superintendent for Geary County Schools. “Over half of our students are minorities, and half of the population is on free or reduced lunch. Fifty-five percent of our student families are military dependent, so we have a very transient population.”

The district was approached by a local learning center to approve high school diplomas to their graduates. The learning center was using the *A+nyWhere Learning System*® (*A+LS*™) courseware program from American Education Corporation (AEC), so the district needed to ensure this courseware was in line with their curriculum learning objectives before they could approve diplomas. They learned that the *A+LS* courseware program is an e-learning solution that creates customized education paths for students. The courseware includes core curriculum content and an instructional management system that can be delivered through a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), or the Internet. It assigns students specific instructional content informed by short, frequent assessments of progress, while tracking individual student performance over time.

As they learned more about the courseware, and discussed their needs with helpful company representatives, they were highly impressed. It wasn't long before Geary County Schools saw the incredible potential of this program for their alternative school – and beyond.

At a Glance

School District: Geary County, Kansas

Challenge: Serve the educational needs of an incredibly diverse student population.

Solution: District-wide implementation of the *A+nyWhere Learning System* for formative assessment, instruction, and comprehensive reporting in traditional, alternative, after school, summer school, juvenile detention center, and sanction home programs.

Result: Improved classroom management, increased student scores, and a decrease in student behavior problems.

One Courseware, Many Kinds of Learners

Geary County Schools has to meet the needs not only of their elementary, middle school, high school, and alternative school populations. It also supervises the education of young people from several juvenile detention centers and sanction homes for boys and girls.

After observing *A+LS* in action at the local learning center, Dixon says they were impressed with the support from AEC, as well as the flexibility of the courseware. However, it was the consistent reporting that inspired them to integrate the courseware throughout their diverse district.

Katina Brenn is the coordinator of Innovations in Schools that supervises the *A+LS* courseware throughout the district. As she observed the success of *A+LS* in the alternative school, she lobbied to take this effective courseware to their many other challenged and diverse students.

“In the middle schools and high schools, we use the *A+LS* courseware for special needs students or those placed outside of the classroom,” she says. “We also use it for credit recovery or to keep a student on grade level.” They also use the program for summer schools, after-school intervention and tutoring for girls and boys at the sanction homes (many of whom are neglected children), and for students who have been expelled.



Katina Brenn, District Coordinator for Innovations in Schools.

“We have three-hour sessions for students who have been placed outside of the school for behavior or other personal issues,” says Brenn. “Sometimes, these are just students who are coming from a different district and their classes don’t match up so they need to recover those credits.”

Students were continually in and out of different systems, different schools, and different instructors – and before integrating *A+LS* into the district, the paperwork was mountainous.

“Before we went with *A+*,” says Dixon, “we were using all kinds of things. It was a big hassle. Now we have a uniform reporting system, which is great.”



Student working on an assignment at the Dixon Center.

Freeing Up Staff Time, Motivating Students

Dixon points out that because of the solid courseware of *A+LS*, instructors are freed up to do more direct work with challenged students, while students now have access to a wide variety of curriculum directly suited to their learning needs.

“There is no way we can service every kid’s academic needs,” says Dixon. “With *A+*, we can use facilitators to monitor our three-hour program. This allows us to have a consistent academic program for all students.”

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— LARRY DIXON,
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT,
GEARY COUNTY SCHOOLS, KANSAS

And the kids love the courseware.

“Students relate to the fact that it is computerized,” says Brenn. “It has pre-tests that are short enough to hold their attention. They like that they see the list of lessons get checked off on a list. They can see their progress on a daily basis.”



Dixon Center student logging in to retrieve his lesson assignments.

She also credits *A+LS* for an improvement in attendance and overall behavior issues.

“Classroom management has improved and behavior problems have decreased,” she says. “Students now work on different things at different times. The assessment has helped them work on individual skills, and students feel

like they have ownership of it. Students start to realize that the more often they’re there, the more credits they earn. They realize the only person they are hurting (when skipping classes) are themselves. The program helps kids get back on track and stay on track.”

Brenn also says she loves the flexibility of *A+LS*. “I can go in and modify according to their IEP,” she reports. “When I’m working with students and parents, we can look at the detail and talk to parents about specific things their child can do differently to improve. Sometimes, kids think they just can’t do the work, but when they see on the reports that they are improving, that is very helpful.”

She and Dixon both agree the outstanding service of AEC has been terrific. “If I come across something I don’t understand or need, the support is immediate. They’ve even created customized courses because I saw a need.

“The administrative management of the courseware – being able to see everything and see what students are working on and how it ties to state standards – makes *A+LS* one of the best programs I’ve seen,” says Brenn.

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 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 800.222.2811 to arrange a custom product demonstration with your local licensed product reseller or check us out on the web at www.amered.com