



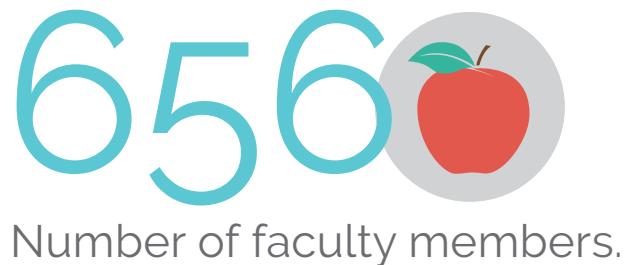
Danvers Public Schools Case Study



Organization

Located on the northeastern coast of Massachusetts, just 20 miles north of Boston, Danvers Public School system (DPS) is a diverse and inclusive community of independent learners, dedicated to respect, responsibility, creativity and the pursuit of academic and personal excellence for its more than 3,500 students.

These characteristics are centered on the four core values of DPS (caring, quality, commitment and collaboration), which serve as organizing principles for everyone connected in the seven schools across the district.



The Journey

In 2012, DPS became a Google for Education district to facilitate meeting the district's technology goals. Training on the Google Apps for Education was provided to the faculty at that time. A year and a half later, Chromebooks were implemented as part of the middle school equipment refresh program, which led to a 1:1 initiative. Due to the success of the initiative at the middle school level, it was extended to the district's high school a year later. Now, more than 1,800 students have online access in school and at home.

"The challenge for us was to vet apps that matched our standards and privacy policy. We also wanted to track app usage and effectiveness."

Mary Wermers

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
Danvers Public Schools



The Challenge

In the second year of Google for Education implementation at DPS, district administrators noticed that teachers were often focusing on edtech products and apps outside of the standard Google Apps for Education suite. DPS worried that some of the free apps being used weren't providing the best protection of students' private data, but they had no way to identify which teachers were using premium versus free, or approved versus unapproved products or apps.

The Discovery

Initially, DPS created an “edtech product requests” process using a Google Form to allow teachers to input requests for premium access to tools they believed would be useful. But as approvals became more complicated, the process became overwhelming for administrators, who were vetting products based on a variety of criteria, including connections to curriculum and technology infrastructure. It was at this point that DPS discovered LearnPlatform and the various benefits of its edtech management and rapid-cycle evaluation capabilities.

“The team at LearnPlatform immediately understood our challenges and provided the system we needed.”

Mary Wermers



The Solution

After choosing to implement LearnPlatform, DPS set out to achieve 3 goals:

1. To understand which tools were being used, by whom, and where throughout the district.
2. To better vet edtech products and gather more teacher feedback.
3. To provide data to stakeholders (CFO, instructional directors, etc.) to support edtech spending.

Since they started using LearnPlatform, DPS has been able to organize product contracts and privacy agreements, track product usage and impact, and gather more teacher insights on the products being used throughout the district. Teachers and administrators have frequently utilized the product library to discover new products being used by more than 100,000 other educators all over the country.

The Results



DPS had a particular need to understand the impact of a priority product being piloted during the 2016 – 2017 school year in the areas of teacher satisfaction, impact on learning, and return on investment.

District administrators developed a teacher feedback survey in LearnPlatform and realized that, while teachers liked the management features of the app, the overall product did not match the district's priorities in that content area. This feedback was critical in helping DPS to justify nonrenewal of the product's contract, saving the district money and allowing them to allocate resources to more effective products.

DPS continues to drive the importance of using effective and safe tools, encouraging teacher feedback, and monitoring edtech usage to ensure apps are meeting privacy standards and are protecting students' personal data.

“LearnPlatform was a solution to many of the issues we were facing in adopting ‘for cost’ or ‘premium’ apps.”

Mary Wermers

100

Number of products given custom approval and privacy statuses

1,070

Number of teacher-generated data points gathered in first round of product feedback requests

1,155

Number of edtech products identified in first year using Chrome analytics

178,945

Average number of edtech visits per month by DPS students