

SCHOOL QUICK FACTS

- > Wireless access points in every classroom.
- > All users are in one Google Apps domain.
- > Users are separated into OU's by school.
- > Primary school breakage rate ~ 1%
- > High school breakage rate ~ 9% (take home)
- > Cost of take home insurance plan = \$50
- > Primary device = Chrome-book.
- > Current challenge: managing e-textbook content.

CASE STUDY:

Richland School District Two: 1:1 with a diverse group of 27,000 students

Demographics

Richland School District Two is located in the suburbs west of Columbia, South Carolina. The district serves nearly 27,000 students. 59% are African American, 29% are White, 6% are Latino, 3% are Asian, and 3% are other. 49% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch (US poverty metric). 12% of the students receive special education services. 5% of the students are english language learners. The student to teacher ratio in Richland Two is 16:1.

Building Consensus with Evidence

Integrating technology into teaching and learning has been a focus of Richland Two since as early as 2001, but their district-wide 1:1 program began in earnest in 2009. School leaders employed best practices for building consensus, implementation, and evaluation. At least 10 site visits to technology rich schools and districts occurred prior to making a commitment to go 1:1 district-wide. Study groups were formed to examine research on 1:1 implementations to determine what had been and what could be accomplished. An extensive professional development plan was put in place before devices ever entered classrooms. And an evaluation rubric was established in collaboration with the local University to ensure that there were clear goals for the program that were measured.

An initial pilot that involved only twenty of Richland Two's teachers proved successful on nearly all of the pre-defined metrics the community identified as indicators of success. This positive result convinced Richland Two school leaders that there was something to be gained with a 1:1 program. Planning began in earnest in 2010 for a full district roll out to Richland Two's students. As of this writing in January of 2014, every student in grades three through twelve of Richland Two's 27,000 students are 1:1.

Planning and Evaluation

Getting to Outcomes, TPCK, and SAMR helped Richland Two engage all of their stakeholders in defining what they wanted from a 1:1 pilot. Using survey data from parents, students, and teachers, as well as classroom observations in 20 pilot classrooms, **Richland Two discovered that students in the pilot classrooms were more motivated, more interested in their work, engaged in more group work, spent more time doing than listening, and claimed their self confidence increased.**

From the beginning, Richland Two leaders defined what they wanted to achieve with 1:1 technology. These five goals (next page) have guided their action:

IN THE TEACHER'S WORDS

"I like knowing exactly which tabs students have open so that I can monitor assessments and how successful my inquiries are running. I always wanted to have a classroom that would create the environment of study, these devices bring us close to that being-there experience which opens the door to deeper experience and therefore learning. I would not ever choose to go back to life before the [1:1] program."

- Diane Gilbert

1. Improved Student Learning
2. Meaningful Student Engagement
3. 21st Century Skills
4. Project and Problem-Based Learning Opportunities
5. Equity of Access

When a formal and respectful evaluation process demonstrated that the 1:1 pilot was moving Richland Two further toward these goals, it was easier to make a deeper commitment across the district. Several community meetings with educators, parents, and students built the necessary consensus to motivate the financial support that would come from both bond measures and a re-allocated infrastructure budget. In January of 2012, Richland Two began a 1:1 rollout that now covers 21,000 of their 27,000 students across their 29 schools. It is one of the largest 1:1 initiatives in the world.

Knowledge Management

Recognizing that making a move toward digital workflow requires some significant re-thinking of how teaching and learning happen, Donna Teuber, Team Leader of Technology Integration, purchased Hapara's Teacher Dashboard for Google Apps and Remote Control for the Chrome browser. In Donna's words, "Teachers share work with students using the Hapara Smart Copy wizard and students share all of their work with teachers through their Hapara course folders. Teachers can easily see student work and grade student work by going to the dashboard. Before Hapara, teachers had to come up with naming conventions and file storage systems that were cumbersome for both the teacher and the student."

Safety, Comfort, and Greater Individual Attention

Richland Two also employs Hapara's Remote Control for Chrome browsers. Teachers who might have otherwise been reluctant to make the 1:1 transition are reassured that they can still be present in the cloud with all of their students by using Remote Control. Teachers use Remote Control regularly to interact with student work in real-time.

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