

Bullitt County Public Schools



K-12 | ELL Core Instruction



Restructuring for learning excellence

Challenges

For the last five years, Bullitt County Public Schools (BCPS), the seventh-largest school district in Kentucky, has been on a mission to move from being a district of compliance to being a district of excellence. With 23 schools in the district, BCPS has seen tremendous growth in the English-language-learner (ELL) population, but not enough growth to warrant full-time ELL personnel at each school. District officials were challenged in finding a solution that could serve small ELL populations at each individual school, with school locations spread out over a very large geographical region. The district was not meeting the adequate yearly progress (AYP) requirement mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act. BCPS sought an effective, scalable language-learning program that could advance the language skills of ELLs through independent study with a response-to-intervention (RTI) learning approach. BCPS looked for a solution that would be affordable and create improved English-proficiency testing scores to meet AYP requirements to ultimately generate a high return on investment (ROI) from the implementation of the program.

Implementation

BCPS implemented an independent-study model with the Rosetta Stone® Language Lessons Version 3 for K-12 (formerly Rosetta Course®) solution for ELLs at school locations. The district required ELLs to spend 30-40 minutes a day, five days a week, using the Rosetta Stone solution. Using an RTI approach, learners were pulled out of the classroom throughout the school day to use the program. Classified school personnel were assigned to the labs to assist learners and ensure effective use of the program. The district benchmarked learner progress at a minimum of two completed levels of the Rosetta Stone solution in an academic year. An administrative assistant was assigned to monitor and manage student progress in comparison to established benchmarks. Administrator Tools (formerly Rosetta Stone Manager™) were used to generate reports and to help administrators take action when needed to keep learners on track.

Benefits

BCPS has realized the following benefits from implementation:

- 57.3% increase from previous year in WIDA ACCESS for ELLs® composite scores
- Top 10% of learners improved their ACCESS composite scores by more than 200%
- Annual savings of over \$550 per ELL, providing an ROI of over 65%



"I believe that without the Rosetta Stone solution we would not have seen success with our ELL students during the 2011-12 academic year."

Greg Schultz
Assistant Superintendent,
Student Learning Division
Bullitt County Public Schools

Implementing for success

Over the past five years, Bullitt County Public Schools experienced significant growth in the ELL population. In addition, the district was not meeting the AYP requirements mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act. The district restructured the delivery of ELL instruction, reallocating personnel and developing a program for language-learning success. The overall goal was to create an effective solution that provided consistency of instruction and service. The district invested in the Rosetta Stone® solution, using it as the core instruction for ELLs. The flexibility and scalability of Rosetta Stone Language Lessons Version 3 made it easy to implement, even in schools within the district that averaged less than five ELLs per school. Through an RTI approach, learners were pulled out of mainstream instruction and into a lab environment to use the Rosetta Stone solution 30–40 minutes per day, five days per week. The district estimated that students could complete an average of two levels of the program in a full academic year. Certified personnel at each school were provided to assist learners and to monitor the lab environment to support the use of the program.

An administrative assistant from the district monitored and managed learner study using Administrator Tools. Working with designated contacts from each school, the administrator increased visibility and accountability of learner progress. When benchmarks were not being met, the assistant would contact the school charged with managing the progress of the learner, and ask for action to be taken to turn around progress in the program. Through real-time management, BCPS was able to ensure successful implementation of the solution.

Leveraging technology

To meet language-learning requirements of ELLs, BCPS looked for alternate ways to deliver instruction. The previous delivery model used tutors to work with the ELL population. The district found that the model was not effective, as evidenced in poor test results, and that consistency of instruction had been compromised. BCPS exercised due diligence in determining other ways to deliver instruction to ELLs that could leverage the technology infrastructure available at schools. The district decided to implement a new model of instruction that leveraged technology to deliver language-learning core instruction through the Rosetta Stone solution. By setting aside time during the school day to deliver instruction with the program, BCPS made it possible for ELLs to acquire the language needed to improve academic performance.

Moving from compliance to excellence

BCPS is the seventh-largest school district in the state of Kentucky. Over the past five years, BCPS has been on a mission to elevate the district to excellence. Moving from a rating in the bottom 5% (165 out of 175) of all school districts in Kentucky to ranking in the top 100, BCPS has found effective program implementations like the Rosetta Stone solution paying off. The goal of the district is to become the premier school district in Kentucky, and the implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution has helped move the district toward achieving that goal.

ACCESS for ELLs® (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners) test scores were very low prior to the implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution. In 2011, the district proactively looked for ways not only to become compliant with testing but to create a district of excellence, exceeding requirements. Through the effective vision and restructuring of the program, scores on ACCESS testing increased significantly during the first year of implementation. As Greg Schultz, BCPS assistant superintendent, Student Learning Division, states, "I believe that without the Rosetta Stone solution we would not have seen success with our EL students during the 2011–12 academic year."

Realizing benefits

BCPS has realized many benefits from the implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution in 2011. Performance on the ACCESS test increased significantly with the implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution. Comparing 2010–11 and 2011–12, ELLs increased overall composite proficiency on the ACCESS test by over 57%. The top 10% of ELLs had composite-score improvements in excess of 200%.

In addition, BCPS has also found that the technology-enabled solution saved the district \$550 per learner. This allowed BCPS to realize a Return on Investment (ROI) of over 65% from implementing the Rosetta Stone solution.



About Bullitt County Schools

Bullitt County Public Schools has nearly 13,000 students in grades kindergarten through 12. There are 25 school facilities, a certified staff of over 850, and a classified staff of over 850 working every school day to make the district the leader in educational excellence.

The Bullitt County Public Schools learning community will educate all students to high levels of academic performance as measured by state and national standards by creating and maintaining a positive learning environment with a comprehensive system of support.

 www.bullittschools.org

About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in technology-driven language and learning solutions for individuals, classrooms, and entire organizations.

Our scalable, interactive solutions have been used by over 12,000 businesses, 9,000 public sector organizations, and 22,000 education institutions worldwide, and by millions of learners in over 150 countries.



Education