



Case Study

**West Linn-Wilsonville  
School District**

**Education:  
Grades K-5**

**World Language Blended Learning**

## Charting the Course with Blended Learning

### Challenge

West Linn-Wilsonville School District (WLWV) needed an online language-learning solution to support world language instruction for Grades K-5 that could build core language skills and support blended instruction. With a global outlook and vision, WLWV wanted a program that would support interaction and communication both inside and outside the school community. With a respect and appreciation of world culture and community, the district sought a program that would build 21st century skills. With a focus on teaching Chinese and Spanish through a blended instructional model, WLWV needed a model which offered online, personalized learning environments. The program needed to complement and expand instruction beyond the classroom as well as offer differentiation of level and pace across a diverse group of learners.

### Implementation

WLWV implemented the Rosetta Couse® solution. A total of nine elementary schools participated, with six schools learning Spanish and three learning Chinese. The district created a blended instruction model with core instruction of the language program and live classroom interaction with fluent instructors to increase communication. Students accessed the Rosetta Stone® solution twice per week during the school day and could study outside of class as well through the online program. For Spanish instruction, the district hired bilingual and bicultural instructors from Mexico, Ecuador, Columbia and Puerto Rico. Instructors from Souzhou University in China, (Confucius Institute, PSU) were hired to teach Chinese culture. Instructors spent one class period per week focusing on conversations, culture, and language usage. The administrative tool, Rosetta Stone Manager™ was used to monitor and manage learner progress.

### Benefits

WLWV has realized the following benefits from implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution:

- Offered quality language learning, working within budgetary constraints, to nine elementary schools through blended instruction
- Ability to implement online instruction to all participants for less than the cost of one instructor, freeing up resources for additional classroom instruction
- Increased communication and cultural proficiency in language studied through blended model created



### At a Glance:

The West Linn-Wilsonville School District covers 42 square miles in the south metropolitan area of Portland, Oregon. The district includes two cities, West Linn and Wilsonville, and a rural area of Clackamas County. The district is a K-12 public school system with approximately 8,400 students.

Learning is what the district is all about. WLWV poses the following question to help think about the mission and goals of the district: "How do we create learning communities for the greatest thinkers and most thoughtful people... for the world?" The West Linn-Wilsonville School District community shapes our children's future with knowledge and hope, with tradition and vision.

*"The Rosetta Stone solution allowed our district to offer blended instruction to K-5 students that was scalable, affordable, and personalized for learner needs. Blending the program with classroom instruction from fluent speakers of Spanish and Chinese has increased achievement towards targeted communication and cultural proficiencies."*

—Dr. Kathy Ludwig  
**Assistant Superintendent**  
**West Linn-Wilsonville School District**

### **Valuing Professional Development**

WLWV understands the importance of teacher training and ongoing professional development to the successful implementation of any curricular program. The district provided instructors with a full-day orientation to the Rosetta Stone® solution and the blended model developed for the program. Lessons were designed and developed for delivery with students to ensure consistency of outcomes. Instructors participated in a model lesson to understand the model and to brainstorm ways to enhance instruction prior to implementing in the classroom. WLWV scheduled four quarterly three-hour trainings that focused on best practices and curriculum planning. Instructors were observed in the classroom by the administrators and building coaches. The summer between academic years will be utilized to debrief and revise as needed to improve implementation in the upcoming year.

### **Sharing Best Practices**

The district has learned many best practices for implementing in a blended-learning environment. First, WLWV had a clear understanding of the vision of the program and created an instruction design to match that vision. WLWV needed a scalable solution that allowed the district to work within budgetary constraints to deliver high quality, blended instruction. Setting time aside to plan, train and implement was critical to success. The district has spent considerable time collecting data on the implementation to use as the basis for introducing change management strategies for program improvement in the next academic year. Understanding that the first year of implementation is a work-in-process, the district made it a point to recognize and celebrate successes as they occurred.

### **Implementing for Success**

To ensure effective integration of the Rosetta Stone solution and the classroom in a blended environment, the district designed and wrote classroom curriculum for instructors to follow. The curriculum aligned with the scope and sequence of the Rosetta Stone program. The language lessons focused on maximizing student interaction, language use, and practice. Using an immersion methodology, instructors only spoke in their native language during the classroom sessions. Students were provided 30 lessons per year which focused on the language and language structure being studied. In addition, culture instruction was provided by instructors who were fluent speakers of the language being taught. Students met with instructors one time per week over a 30-week period. The classroom teacher and the students learned together through music, chants, classroom books, and school activities.

Students utilized the Rosetta Stone solution two times per week during the school day. They were also encouraged to study outside of the classroom through their online access to the program.

### **Creating a School-wide Focus**

The district implemented a school-wide focus on the elementary world language initiative. Using the philosophy "You can't lead what you don't know", WLWV required that everyone at the elementary schools learn a language, from teachers to staff to students. This provided classroom support for learning language as the target language was posted throughout the school environment, including school calendars and signs. The goal was to make the target language as visible as possible in common areas. The music program implemented language songs and each school conducted cultural assemblies. Native speakers of the target languages studied were invited in to speak with students. WLWV focused on teaching students about cultural traditions and celebrations in addition to building the language and language skills necessary to communicate with others.

### **Realizing Benefits**

WLWV has realized many benefits from implementing the Rosetta Stone solution in a blended-learning environment. The program created a scalable and affordable solution allowing the district to offer blended world language instruction to nine elementary schools in the district. The cost of online delivery for all students was less than the

cost of one classroom teacher, freeing up resources to be allocated to additional classroom instruction. Finally, students were able to build communication and cultural proficiencies preparing them for participation in the global community.

### **About Rosetta Stone**

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in technology-based language learning. With 20 years of experience behind us, we're continuing to develop award-winning innovations that improve the lives of people and the operations of organizations every day.

Our proprietary, proven method leverages interactive technologies to replicate the immersion environment in which people learn their first language, and it activates each learner's natural aptitude for acquiring a new language regardless of language background. We offer our clients scalable solutions for a variety of needs, from individual learners to single classrooms to entire organizations.

Our solutions have been implemented in over 20,000 schools and in more than 17,000 private and public sector organizations, and they are used by millions of learners in over 150 countries throughout the world.



Education