



Rosetta Stone Customer Spotlight:

## KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Educators as students again

### A district serving a diverse community

Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) serves the communities of Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie, and Somers, Wisconsin. KUSD is the third largest school district in Wisconsin, with just over 21,000 students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve.

The district's student makeup is 48.7 percent white, 28.9 percent Hispanic, 14.3 percent black or African-American, 6.4 percent identifying as two or more races, 1.5 percent Asian, and 0.3 percent American Indian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

Its 22 elementary schools, five middle schools, three high schools, and 12 charter and specialized schools are served by nearly 4,000 district employees. KUSD seeks to be Wisconsin's top-performing urban school district—highly regarded for continuously exceeding all expectations by providing excellent learning opportunities and experiences that prepare each student for success.

### Languages from around the world

In recent years, KUSD's English language learner (ELL) population has risen, with 10.4 percent of students identified as ELLs during the 2017-18 school year, up from 9.6 percent in 2016-17 and 9.2 percent in 2015-16. With more than 64 languages represented in the district—from Albanian to Mandarin to Urdu—the district recognized the importance of providing teachers the opportunity to learn a new language or enhance their existing language skills to better serve its students. To fulfill its strategic goal of enhancing the leadership and expertise of all staff through professional learning and collaboration, KUSD sought a way to bring language learning opportunities to its teachers.

### Professional learning for the 21st century

KUSD offers an array of professional learning opportunities to its teachers on topics such as literacy, mathematics, and technology—all of which align to the district's seven professional learning standards: learning communities,



leadership, resources, data, learning designs, implementation, and outcomes. The district partnered with Rosetta Stone to offer teachers a digital language learning program, adding world languages to the list of learning opportunities.

Offering the online learning solution was a natural choice for the district because of students' previous and continued success using the program. Since 2012, KUSD middle school students have used Rosetta Stone® Italian, German, French, Spanish, and Chinese in their language classes as a supplement to the instruction they receive from their world language teacher.

Nearly 50 teachers from all grade levels and subjects participated in the seven-week course. Spanish was the most popular language of study because of the high interest in enhancing communication with families of students; however, some teachers participated in French, Italian, or Chinese. Teachers accessed the program using a computer, tablet, or smartphone to practice listening, speaking, reading and writing the new language. In addition to language skills, teachers who participated in the world language professional learning program were eligible to receive college credit from Carthage College, a private liberal arts college located in Kenosha.

*"Being able to offer our educators the opportunity to improve their language skills and earn professional learning credit on their own schedule with a program like Rosetta Stone has been a game changer for the district. We're excited to continue offering the program so that more of our teachers have the opportunity to improve their skills."*

Sarah Shanebrook-Smith, Coordinator  
of Language Acquisition



### Connecting with students and parents

Giving teachers the opportunity to learn a new language or refresh their skills has helped KUSD teachers feel better prepared to engage parents of ELL students. Using the vocabulary they learned from the program, teachers have found they can better communicate with parents who are not fluent in English, helping to eliminate the language barrier. In turn, parents have felt more welcomed and have become more involved in their child's education and in the KUSD community.

The program has also given KUSD teachers a better understanding of what it is like for ELL students in their classrooms as they take on the challenge of learning a new language. By gaining a sense of the challenges these students face in school, teachers are better able to serve their students.

### Professional learning on the go

The world language professional learning program was particularly appealing to KUSD teachers because it offered them the opportunity to earn professional learning credits on their own time. Teachers received one credit for every 12 hours of time spent using the Rosetta Stone® program. A popular benefit noted by teachers was that they could access the program on their computer, tablet, or smartphone so they could take their learning on the go during their busy summer months. Teachers were impressed at how interactive the online program was, especially when compared to traditional PowerPoint-based professional learning sessions.

### About Kenosha Unified School District



KUSD is the third largest public school district in Wisconsin, serving nearly 22,000 students. The district, created in 1967, includes the city of Kenosha, village of Pleasant Prairie, and town and village of Somers. The district is led by Superintendent Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis and governed by the seven-member board of education.

For more information on KUSD, visit [www.kusd.edu](http://www.kusd.edu).

### About Rosetta Stone

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