

Success Story

Rite of Passage

16 STATES AND 40 PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE US

Grades: K–12

Model: Credit recovery and blended learning

Time Period: 2017–2018

Reach: 800

Goal: Help students get back up to grade level and graduate

Impact: Students gain an average of 2 grade levels after spending just a year at a Rite of Passage school

Helping at-risk and adjudicated students catch up and graduate

The typical Rite of Passage student is at-risk, adjudicated or expelled from his or her previous school, behind grade level, and missing credits. Because of the varying needs of these students and the short amount of time they often spend at these schools, the curriculum that Rite of Passage uses has to be high-quality and flexible, and give students the opportunity to catch up and recover lost credits.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF VULNERABLE STUDENTS

For many students, a typical school setting with lecture-driven instruction doesn't work. And when students also have challenges they're dealing with outside of school, the structure and rigidity of a school day can prevent them from getting the education they need, so some creative and flexible education solutions can be key to helping these students learn, graduate, and thrive.

[Rite of Passage](#) has spent three decades helping students who need more than a regular public school can offer. Students typically come to Rite of Passage schools after being expelled from their previous school or after adjudication, so the help, care, and attention they receive has to extend beyond the classroom. In their 35 years of operation, Rite of Passage has helped over 35,000 kids, many of whom are only with them for a short time. It is imperative, then, that the education Rite of Passage students receive works with them and their specific needs.



PARTNERING WITH THE RIGHT PROVIDER

Rite of Passage operates across 16 states and in 40 different programs and schools, so the education they provide must be standards based, high quality, and flexible and adaptable. Most of their students are spending their time recovering credits, so when it was time to explore partnering with a new edtech provider, they looked to one with proven experience helping students recover credits and get back on track to graduate.

To help make this decision, they held an education summit with leaders from all of the programs and schools Rite of Passage serves. At this summit, they hosted two edtech providers, and after seeing what both companies had to offer, Rite of Passage decided to begin a new partnership with [Edgenuity](#)[®]. The presentation showed how easily administrators could implement the digital learning solutions, which could be delivered without disruption to the many schools, students, and educators who'd be using them.

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After a year of use, they could see that their initial impressions were right. Implementation went very well, and Rite of Passage now has over 800 students throughout the US enrolled in Edgenuity’s online courses. Two schools in particular, Meadowlark in Wyoming and Canyon State in Arizona, are experiencing particularly good success. At Meadowlark, students and teachers share classroom time, and Edgenuity makes up a large portion of the curriculum. These school communities are fully bought-in, so other Rite of Passage schools can look to them for guidance, advice, and help.

[Edgenuity Courseware](#)[™] has been meeting the needs of these students so well that administrators have been able to implement it straight out of the box. And one of the most important elements for the success of these schools is the availability of training for educators. Rite of Passage provides [professional development](#) and educator trainings, and the connection between the schools and programs means educators and administrators can learn from each other’s successes. They’ve seen improvements after just one year of use, and they’re getting great feedback from students.

HELPING STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

Rite of Passage students aren’t only getting an education; they’re also participating in “targeted programs, services and unique opportunities...that focus on [their] mental, physical and emotional well-being.” What this means in practice is Rite of Passage students enter into supportive, caring environments; have access to transition services; receive after-school mentoring; and participate in philanthropy projects. This model has proven to be successful for them—they’ve had a 75% success rate over their 35 years of operation, and on average, students gain 2 grade levels after just a year at one of their schools. And many of their graduates go on to post-secondary education, and become more engaged and active in their own communities.

With the unique challenges that Rite of Passage students face, it is important that these schools employ and partner with the right people. And their partnership with Edgenuity has helped students, educators, and administrators a great deal.

