

Success Story

Roxana High School

ROXANA, IL

Grades: 9–12

Reach: 550 students

Model: Summer school and credit recovery

Goal: Increase credits earned graduation rates

Time Period: 2017–current

Impact: High success rates in ELA and math, and increased graduation rates

Innovative Credit Recovery Program Increases Graduation Rates

To help students recover credits, the administrators at Roxana High School in Illinois turned to Edgenuity, and thanks to an innovative summer school program, they started to see success almost immediately.

OFFERING MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO EARN CREDITS

Helping students, especially juniors and seniors, recover credits so they can graduate on time and learn the skills and concepts they need to be successful is a challenge for many administrators. Jason Dandurand, principal at Roxana High School in Illinois, was faced with this problem and began investigating possible solutions. His team decided to look for a partner that could help them develop a rigorous and flexible program with credit recovery options to make students more accountable for their education, and started using [online courses from Edgenuity®](#). After a successful first semester, they incorporated the credit recovery courses into their summer school program as well, and started seeing increases in both credits earned and graduation rates.

Thanks to previous experience working in a district that offered an alternative education program that used Edgenuity, Principal Dandurand knew about the rigor and flexibility of the program, and how Roxana's students could benefit from it. Before starting this partnership, students' only option for recovering credits was in their traditional summer school program, which was limiting because some students needed to recover more than one credit. Attendance for summer school was low, and Roxana also had students who were at risk of dropping out altogether because of the high number of credits they needed to recover, so they began working with Edgenuity to design a program that met their needs.



SUMMER SCHOOL WITH A CATCH

They started offering Edgenuity courses for credit recovery in January 2017, and experienced success almost immediately, so they expanded to offer it during summer school, but there was a catch. Students who enrolled in summer school had to pay to take each course. If they successfully completed the course before summer was over, they were completely reimbursed for the course. Students who did not earn credit over the summer were not reimbursed, but could still work toward earning the credit when the new school year started. This added an extra layer of motivation for both student and parent, and kept the emphasis on learning and recovering the credit to get them back on track.

Summer school sessions ran Monday through Thursday in the mornings and afternoons, with an optional session on Friday. Students who chose to work the extra day finished their work early and were still able to enjoy part of their summer break, while earning all the credits they needed to.

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SUCCESS LOOKS DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE

The program received a lot of support from the community, and administrators saw huge increases in credits earned in ELA and math, which were higher than they'd seen before. "Success looks different for each student but ultimately, the endgame is to see students cross the stage and achieve their goal of graduation," said Principal Dandurand.

Roxana High School is a 1:1 school, so every student has a device on which to complete their work, but they take a blended approach to online learning. According to Principal Dandurand, "We want students to be well-rounded and equipped to use technology and non-tech resources to support them in their learning in high school and beyond."

““ [...] it's all about seeing our students accomplish their academic endeavors culminating in the achievement of graduation.

THE POWER OF FLEXIBILITY

The flexibility offered by both online learning and Edgenuity has been key to Roxana's success. Classes are on a block schedule, so students actually complete a yearlong class in 90 days (and semester-long classes in just 45 days). When they had a change in their bell schedule, being able to adjust the courses to align with their schedules meant students could get all their work done in a timely manner.

"We're always trying to find new and innovative ways to help students achieve their academic goals," says Principal Dandurand. "Edgenuity has been instrumental and a tremendous resource in doing this. I'm really happy with the rigor of it and its ability to get our students to think critically. Ultimately for me as the building principal, it's all about seeing our students accomplish their academic endeavors culminating in the achievement of graduation. Edgenuity has given us the opportunity to help some of our students do just that."