

Case Study

Vail School District

TUCSON, AZ

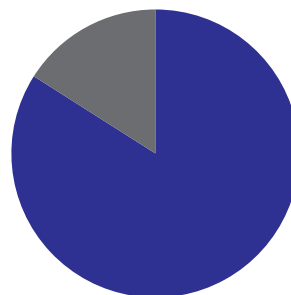
Is your online program scalable enough for your individual student's needs?

Problem: A one-size-fits-all online education program alienated students and teachers.

Solution: A flexible online program—developed in conjunction with technology coordinators, counselors, principals, and teachers—allowed students to take Edgenuity courses anytime, anywhere.

Outcome: Personalized technology and rigorous curriculum increased teacher support and student engagement.

School Demographics



■ Caucasian	84%
■ Hispanic	16%
Low income	17%

Background

Vail School District (VSD) is located in southeastern Tucson. While VSD has long recognized the power of technology to transform learning, it wanted to redesign its online programs to be increasingly rigorous, cost-effective, and flexible to meet the needs of all students. VSD had originally formed a partnership with a neighboring district to use their online content and teachers. In an effort to increase academic achievement, administrative buy-in, teacher support, and student engagement, VSD decided to build its own online program, making Edgenuity the foundation of its curriculum. Edgenuity allowed VSD to focus its efforts on developing teacher talent and implementing sound online programs rather than creating course content.

A Flexible Model

VSD decided to implement Edgenuity courses in a number of ways. At the Vail Blended Learning Center, approximately 60 students in Grades 6–8 voluntarily enrolled in Edgenuity courses for core curriculum instruction, which they could access both at school and at home.



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John Roberts, Online Coordinator, VSD

The district also created the Vail Digital Learning Program (VDLP), a fully online virtual academy for Grades 6–12, serving approximately 85 students. Students who participated in the VDLP were motivated to attend for a number of reasons: home schooling, physical and emotional issues, commitments to sports-team travel, and various other academic and personal circumstances.

Additionally, at each VSD high school, students used Edgenuity courses in the school's computer lab as part of a blended learning credit recovery program.

Edgenuity courses supported the needs of all students with engaging instruction from a certified, on-screen teacher. It also provided rigorous content, as well as a number of learning scaffolds, such as a translator, graphic organizer, and highlighter. Students had the flexibility to catch up on content or courses they had missed, enroll in courses the district might not offer, and take advanced courses to get ahead academically or to graduate early. "I have seen a significant jump in students completing classes, staying in the program, and going on to finish their high school degrees," confirms Online Coordinator John Roberts.

Data for 93 students enrolled in courses during the 2011–2012 school year indicated that 80 percent of courses were completed.

The Role of the Teacher

At every level and in every format, Edgenuity optimized teacher involvement. The user-friendly Web Administrator and Edgenuity's Learning Management System allowed teachers to regularly check student progress and deliver feedback. When data indicated students needed additional support, teachers could provide face-to-face tutoring in small groups, after school, or via Skype or e-mail.

According to Roberts, "Edgenuity has made a huge difference, allowing our teachers to be more involved in facilitating learning."

VSD raised the bar when it adopted Edgenuity as the new online learning program. The implementation of Edgenuity curriculum offered increased flexibility to accommodate students with varying abilities and has helped to increase student achievement and teacher engagement.



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