

Success Story

Legacy High School

NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Grades: 9–12

Model: Credit recovery and virtual instruction

Time Period: 2015–2018

Reach: Over 3,000 students

Goal: Help make recovering credits easier

Impact: Increased graduation rates up to 84%

Beyond Credit Recovery: Creative Uses for Online Learning

When faced with a large number of their 3,000 students needing to recover credits, the staff at Legacy High School started investigating online learning solutions that could help their students learn what they need to, and graduate on time. They began using Edgenuity's online courses and virtual instructors for credit recovery and soon saw increased graduation rates, as high as 84% one year.

WHY CHOOSE ONLINE INSTRUCTION?

The flexibility, convenience, and quality that Edgenuity's online courses offer to both the students and teachers is what sold them. "The district offers a free program to the schools, but it's not as good. The difference between the two programs is that you need a licensed teacher for the district's program, but you already have that with Edgenuity's online courses. Scheduling-wise, this helps our school and the credit recovery program itself," said Assistant Principal Bob Beskow.

They started using online courses only for credit recovery, and as students and staff saw the value and possibilities that virtual instruction offers, they began using it more and more.



“I didn’t realize how many ways we use it: credit recovery, tutorials, concept recovery, ACT prep, and original instruction,” said Beskow. And as staff grows more and more comfortable incorporating virtual instruction into the school day, the list of uses will also grow. They already have students requesting to complete all of their work with Edgenuity.

IMPLEMENTING ONLINE INSTRUCTION

To help ensure he’d be able to answer student questions and address minor issues, Assistant Principal Beskow completed two Edgenuity courses himself to get a feel for the learning system and the student’s experience in it. He felt the instruction and pacing were both good, and liked that if a student struggled to understand something, getting clarification could be as simple as rewinding and replaying the video clip. He also appreciated that students could access lesson transcripts in English as well as in 17 other languages, which is a great support for English language learners.

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The flexibility of the online instruction mean that staff and students can use them in many creative ways. Teachers are encouraged to use Edgenuity in their classes as much as they’d like to, and in the 2017–2018 school year, all the math teachers were required to do at least one full lesson on Edgenuity each quarter in an effort to get more familiar and comfortable with the system. Some teachers enjoyed the experience enough to use it in their classroom in a more blended way, while others used it to help introduce students to new concepts before they taught them in class. Teachers also encouraged students to take ownership over their education by working to catch up on lessons, units, or chapters they struggled with. Rather than spending valuable class time working with a few struggling students, teachers could move ahead while those students worked to master past skills on their own and eventually catch up to the rest of the class.

CREATING NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

They’ve also begun using credit recovery for students who have been suspended from school for longer periods of time. Previously, these students would attend a different school for their suspensions, where they would often fall behind in their learning. Teachers would have to prepare packets and then review the students’ completed work, greatly adding to their workload, and when the students returned to Legacy, they often struggled to keep up. Now, these students go to an alternative classroom where they are assigned their classwork on Edgenuity so they can complete the work they’ll miss during this period, which makes both the students’ and teachers’ lives much easier.

After having used virtual instruction and online curriculum for a few years, Legacy keeps improving. Students and staff know the tricks of the trade and are getting more and more comfortable using the platform, which will lead to continued success for Legacy and its student body.