

A+ Success Story



Students Empowered

A+nyWhere Learning System® Courseware Helps Mechanicsburg Achieve Excellence in Education

In 2007, Mechanicsburg Exempted Village School District (Mechanicsburg, Ohio) deployed the *A+nyWhere Learning System*® (*A+LS*™) courseware program from American Education Corporation (AEC) throughout the District's state-of-the-art learning environment. According to Danielle Prohaska, Director of Student Instruction at Mechanicsburg, every student enrolled in the District uses *A+LS* courseware, a network-based, e-learning instruction courseware program that contains more than 5,400 lessons; at least 200,000 content pages of research and objective-based, problem-solving, K-12 courseware; plus assessment, alignment, and curriculum management tools. The results of that deployment have begun to turn heads in the district – and at the state level – as performance indicators have begun to rise at Mechanicsburg.

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— DANIELLE PROHASKA,
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT INSTRUCTION,
MECHANICSBURG SCHOOLS

In August of 2007, the District merged into a new K-12 facility for 950 students and empowered all of its students by enrolling them in *A+LS*. “All of our K-12 students use *A+LS*,” says Prohaska. “Our classroom teachers use *A+LS* in the computer lab and in the classroom. We also use *A+LS* in our intervention program for kids at risk and as part of our credit-recovery initiative.”

At a Glance

School Location: Mechanicsburg, Ohio

Challenge: Raise District Performance Index and engage students at every skill level.

Solution: Network deployed implementation of the *A+nyWhere Learning System* for classroom enhancement, credit-recovery, and specialized instruction for both gifted and special needs students.

Result: Positive participation led to an increased District Performance Index (DPI) in only one year, followed by another DPI increase after the second year of implementation.

Mechanicsburg also uses the program to enable students interested in specialized subjects, such as psychology or sociology, to study them even when the manpower doesn't exist to offer a full class on those topics.

For students struggling with math or science, the *A+LS* courseware is a critical learning tool. For example, when a Mechanicsburg teacher identifies a student who is deficient in math, the teacher assigns an adaptive *A+LS* course for the student to get extra practice – at their own pace. “At the elementary school level, specifically in grades one and two, some students struggle with basic math skills,” says Prohaska. “We assign these students the adaptive assessment, either Math One or Math Two.



Students at Mechanicsburg using A+LS.

They get extra time on the computer during the day so they can work on building their math knowledge. By giving them extra instruction time, *A+LS* helps students return to normal grade-level function. That way, when they are promoted to the next grade, they will be ready for the next level of the math curriculum. We are closing the gap between them and their peers.”

By All Indicators

In Ohio, school districts receive an annual report card that rates them across 30 indicators and compares them to other districts in the state. In 2006-2007, Mechanicsburg met 21 out of 30 indicators. After enrolling all their students on *A+LS* in 2007, the District met 23 out of 30 indicators – gaining an indicator each at the elementary and high school levels. Further, the District’s Performance Index, a measure of the performance level across all grades based on standardized tests, increased since the implementation of *A+LS*.

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— MIKE NUTTER, SUPERINTENDENT,
MECHANICSBURG SCHOOLS

“For several years, our Performance Index level was fixed at 91,” says Superintendent Michael Nutter. “This year, with the addition of *A+LS*, our Performance Index has risen to 94.6 for Mechanicsburg High School and 93.7 for the District. That’s a dramatic improvement in one year’s time.”

When *A+LS* was implemented, one of the first things the District did was eliminate study hall. Instead, students participate in longer class periods—enabling them to spend more of the day immersed in academic content.

Another important change precipitated by *A+LS* was the ability of the staff to give individual students instruction in areas of specific need. Prohaska explains, “Depending on the student’s educational needs, we can tailor a program to directly target their level, while still serving a variety of students at the same time. This is a major reason we’ve been able to improve our achievement test scores.”



Michael Nutter, Superintendent.

As teachers become more familiar with *A+LS*, Prohaska has noticed that many have created two versions of their assessment tests – both a pre- and post-test option. By assigning a pre-assessment test, they can determine what areas they need to stress in the classroom. When students complete a post-assessment test, teachers can make sound judgments about what students absorbed from their lessons.

One group of students that has been especially empowered by *A+LS* is Mechanicsburg’s gifted students.



Danielle Prohaska, Director of Student Instruction.

“They thoroughly enjoy *A+LS*,” says Prohaska. “It keeps them challenged and engaged. For instance, we have a student who excels in language arts. We assigned him sciences and social studies *A+LS* lessons. He completes reports and research projects based on the information he gets from *A+LS*. The program has extended his learning opportunities, and he loves that he can work at his own, faster pace.”

For Special Education students, *A+LS* offers other advantages. Notes Prohaska, “It allows them to get on the computer and log in like everyone else,

except no one needs to know the level they are working on. The adaptive assessments present information that is at their level, so they are not stressed and frustrated. They work at their own pace and feel a sense of accomplishment – doing what everyone else is doing.”

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2009 Update

Since implementing *A+LS*, the District has continued to improve in the State’s indicators and Performance Index – increasing from 93.7 in 2006-2007 to 95.7 in 2008-2009. During last year’s evaluation period, the District received, for the second year in a row, a ranking of “Excellent” – the highest level in Ohio.

About American Education Corporation (AEC)

Early recognition of the national trend in school accountability, combined with an understanding of the impact of the Internet on education, has allowed AEC to become an industry leader in e-learning solutions. Few education companies offer the systemized combination of formative assessment, proven instruction, alignment to standards, and data management and reporting capabilities of AEC’s comprehensive courseware and learning management system.

The *A+nyWhere Learning System*[®] (*A+LS*[™]) software program is an e-learning solution ideal for schools searching for more efficient ways to improve their instructional processes. The *A+LS* courseware program consists of an award-winning instructional management system supported by significant core curriculum content for grades K–12 and adult learners delivered through a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), or the Internet. The research-based curriculum content is in the subject areas of Reading, Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, Writing, and Social Sciences. This curriculum is linked to state standards and combined with valuable formative assessment tests designed to guide instruction throughout the school year — as well as give school administrators the data they need to ensure maximum student performance.

Would you like to learn more about the *A+nyWhere Learning System*?

Give us a call at 800.222.2811 to arrange a custom product demonstration with your local licensed product reseller or check us out on the web at www.amered.com