

Laurel School District Case Study



Students
2,471



Schools
4



Location
Laurel, Delaware

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Ashley Giska and his team led an inspiring turnaround at Laurel School District in Delaware. But, before they got to where they are today, they had to overcome a lot of challenges.

Challenges

“When I came in a few years ago, we were the lowest achieving district in the state. Some of our grade levels had proficiency rates in math as low as 6-7%,” explained Ashley.

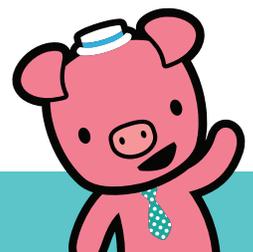
“To turn things around, we knew we would have to look hard at what we were doing and make some innovative changes.”

One of the first challenges Ashley observed was that each classroom did something different for RTI and student enrichment, creating a lot of inconsistency in supporting struggling students.

Ashley added, “It was a disjointed system. The problem was there was no way to organize all of the information and no uniform way to report on it. That made it impossible to evaluate the quality of the activity the teachers were having the students engage in.”

To find a system that would work for the entire district, Ashley listened to his teachers and got everyone started with Freckle, their preferred choice.

While they loved that Freckle made reporting easy, and delivered the perfect lesson to every student, they were even more blown away by Freckle’s library of Inquiry Based Lessons (IBLs) which emphasized their focus on higher-order thinking and true student engagement.





Inquiry Based Lessons

Freckle's IBLs are innovative, real-world lessons that allow students to discover math concepts through real-world scenarios. There are over 180 lessons and they cover every single math standard for grades 1st-8th.

Ashley marveled at the impact that IBLs have had for their district.

“Freckle represents what math needs to be now as opposed to what math was before. A lot of people think the best way to improve student achievement in math is to skill and drill. And, I don't know if that's the right thing. What we've seen is that the thing that improves achievement the most is getting students interested in math and posing real questions. And that's something that Freckle's IBLs do really well. They pave the way and bridge the gap between old math and new math.”

By placing an emphasis on helping their students apply math to real-world situations, the teachers in Ashley's schools have demonstrated some amazing student growth.

Student Growth

Ashley announced, “I'm happy to say that **last year we were the number one district in the state for student growth in mathematics.** We were faced with a lot of challenges, and really did a lot to turn this around, but Freckle was a big part of it.”

In fact, after Ashley and his staff dug into their reports, it became clear that Freckle was having a very large impact on their student performance.

“Our growth has been directly correlated to Freckle usage,” beamed Ashley. “Where usage was lower, growth was lower. Every student that has worked with Freckle has improved.”

A true partner

We're so proud of the amazing work done by the entire team at Laurel School District! They're doing so much to help deliver a world-class education to each of their students.

