The Mooresville Graded School District has been educating students for more than 100 years. It’s located within the rapidly growing community of Mooresville, NC, about 20 miles north of Charlotte. In fact, rapid growth has been a significant challenge to Mooresville during the past several years, yet this growth enhances the diversity of the community as people relocate from elsewhere and mingle with local families.

**The Digital Conversion Initiative**

New leadership for the district began with the arrival of Superintendent Dr. Mark Edwards. Dr. Edwards and school district leaders examined student performance, spending, and results against desirable outcomes with an eye toward increasing the graduation rate, reducing dropout rate, and preparing students for 21st century jobs. The school system, parents, community and other partners and constituents joined forces to realize a shared vision: a digital conversion for students and teachers.

The purpose of the Digital Conversion Initiative is to employ technology in ways that improve teaching and learning through increased student engagement while teaching the NC Standard Course of Study, focusing on reading and mathematics.

Movement toward a digital teaching and learning environment is seen as essential for closing the digital divide and improving overall academic achievement. Digital conversion also gives students the opportunity to use everyday technology in their learning.

**A National Success Story**

MGSD has since become a prominent example of what is achievable when a laptop is provided for every 4th–12th grade student and teacher. Since implementing their 1:1 initiative, MGSD has become the 3rd highest performing school district in North Carolina, and has become a national success story. Dr. Edwards is a founding superintendent of the newly formed US Department of Education League of Innovative Schools, which has the potential to become a national clearinghouse of “best practices” around 1:1 implementation and digital conversion.

**Pearson’s 1:1 Learning Framework**

MGSD established itself as a model for 1:1 learning through their effective implementation, and clarified the need for a visionary leader committed to effective and efficient innovation. MGSD benefitted from staging its implementation in a way that matched its growing capacity. Their digital conversion also showed a commitment to the continuous process of improvement and change that is necessary from all staff, students, and parents.

Pearson’s 1:1 Learning Framework reflects and supports the MGSD digital conversion initiative in all key areas: by creating a personalized learning environment, supporting change of practices through teacher training, professional development, effective planning and project management, and with a commitment to pervasive high-quality hardware and network infrastructure.

With MGSD’s focus on students meeting or exceeding state standards, they looked to Pearson for help. In Middle and High School math, Pearson implemented MyMathLab™. This program has helped personalize math to a new level and allows every student to leverage MGSD’s investment in 1:1 computing by allowing students 24/7 access, with built-in tutoring support, and instant achievement feedback so students can move forward or remediate as required.
For students behind grade level and at risk of graduating, Pearson implemented *GradPoint™*. *GradPoint* delivers proven, rigorous core secondary curricula designed to help every student achieve objective-base mastery and prepare them for graduation and college. *GradPoint* enables curricula to be prescribed lessons and tests to be customized, while monitoring student activity and performance. *GradPoint* is also used for students looking for academic enrichment. MGSD has been very satisfied with Pearson's *GradPoint* to date. Superintendent Mark Edwards stated,

“There will be students who graduate from MGSD who would not have done so if not for the effective use of GradPoint.”

For Pre-Kindergarten to second grade, MGSD implemented Pearson’s *Waterford Early Learning™* program. With curriculum aligned to the Common Core State Standards for both mathematics and language arts, MGSD’s youngest students discover the fun of learning with full-motion video, brilliant animation, entertaining songs and interactive activities.

MGSD is a model for any school looking to implement a 1:1 initiative, and partnering with Pearson has made it easier to support and enhance the program.

“Our digital conversion plan calls for technologys-rich curriculum programs for our students that embody the teaching of 21st century skills. We chose Pearson because it is committed to the success of the 1:1 movement and has a record of offering curriculum and services with proven results.”

Dr. Mark Edwards

**MGSD Facts**

**Success at Every Level**

- Student achievement has improved: Mooresville is now 3rd in test scores and 2nd in graduation rates in North Carolina
- Students are using 21st Century tech tools: Students take their laptops home daily to complete assignments, homework, projects, and research.
- Teachers actively support students’ creativity and learning through day-to-day activities.
- MGSD has been highlighted at state and national meetings as a lighthouse district for technological success.

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