Lightspeed Systems®

CASE STUDY

Digital Promise®
Accelerating Innovation in Education

Best Practices in the Use of Data Analytics

DISTRICT PROFILE:

Piedmont City School District

Lightspeed Systems® and Digital Promise have joined forces to provide participating Digital Promise League of Innovative School Districts a better way to track and monitor student-level digital engagement: the use of CatchOn® [Lightspeed Analytics™]. This award-winning data analytics tool enables schools to analyze the efficacy of their technology investments and identify those students at risk of falling through the cracks—all in real time.

Seven districts of varying size participated in the project, including Alabama's Piedmont City School District (PCSD). The following case study outlines how PCSD's leadership team leveraged their data analytics dashboards, trending reports, and data insights to inform and support strategic instructional and administrative decision making within the district.

Piedmont City School District Uses Data to Gain Insight into Student Engagement Patterns and Application Usage

LEVERAGING APPLICATION USAGE DATA TO INFORM LICENSING AND RENEWAL DECISIONS

Leaders at Piedmont City School District (PCSD) joined this program because they wanted to see what was actually being used by their students as opposed to what they thought was being used. To help inform and validate their budgeting, licensing, and renewal decisions, they used Lightspeed Analytics' widgets to create granular grade-level and course-level views of their students' application usage data.

> *This data is especially helpful when I'm looking at budgeting and renewals. I downloaded all of CatchOn [Lightspeed Analytics]' application usage and engagement reports to show our principals when we meet to discuss renewals.*
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> **- Jerry Snow,** Assistant Superintendent, Piedmont City School District

The application usage data enabled educators to immediately identify when and how often students, by grade level and by building, were engaging with their digital resources. **"Being able to see what was used most in the last 30 days by grade level and by school building has been very helpful to me,"** said Jerry Snow, PCSD's Assistant Superintendent.

TRACKING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT PATTERNS BY COURSE AND GRADE LEVEL

PCSD also regularly analyzed the engagement and usage patterns of their students throughout the Lightspeed Systems and Digital Promise program and were surprised to see the high number of engagements among their students. For example, when the team looked at their data for grades 6–8, they saw thousands of engagements, numbers that were a little surprising given the school's relatively small student population. **"We had 8,000 total engagements in January alone, and then it went up a little in February,"** said Snow. **"We had a week off in March, and we saw the numbers dip a little, which is understandable."** During the program, the leadership team also used Lightspeed Analytics to track how many students were logging in at home and engaging with their digital tools.

Key Insights and Next Steps

As the district continues their data analytics journey, the PCSD team would like to expand their administrator user base in the Lightspeed Systems platform to include the district's principals. **"I would like to sit down with my principals and walk them through the platform and show them the features,"** said Snow. **"I think they will find this data very helpful, and it will enable them to track and see what is being used by the students in their schools."**

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> *It's very helpful to get the big picture view of student engagement patterns and trends.*
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> **- Jerry Snow**, Assistant Superintendent, Piedmont City School District
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Digital Promise works at the intersection of education leaders, researchers, and technology developers to improve learning opportunities for all and close the Digital Learning Gap. Because when all learners have equitable access to technology, when everyone participates, and when everyone learns, we all benefit from a more engaged, informed and just society.

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