

# Outsourced Educational Technology Management

Discover how top school districts are advancing 21st century learning.



**With Questeq, advancements in a district's use of technology to boost personalized student achievement and growth are possible regardless of the district's transformation starting point.**



## Fannett Metal School District

Current Enrollment: 530 students, 35-38% on free or reduced lunch

**Behind-the-scenes is a story of district leadership and teachers joining with internal and outsourced technology experts to permanently change FMSD academic achievement performance. This dedicated team is using classroom diagnostic test data to advance student achievement, and after-hours time to build and pilot more engaging digital curricula.**

## Rural School Pulls Together. Leaps District to Online Assessments.

### Challenge

Fannett Metal School District (FMSD) is a very small district with very big challenges. The district is located in a rural area with limited resources. Its already stretched budgets add to the challenge of raising student assessment performance. In 2013 the district leadership, with full support of district teachers and students, took an aggressive step to improve student academic achievement by marrying online assessments with new instructional practices.

### Action

After a device inventory identified 100 units over 10 years old, the district consulted students on preferred replacement devices. Beyond device and wireless upgrades FMSD is moving forward with the formal installation of new help desk and device tracking procedures. Very importantly the district is now moving all grade levels towards online assessments.

### Results

Students are noticing that technology, instructional and administrative staffs are pulling together, giving of their own time, stretching budgets and beginning the technology and culture changes needed to permanently impact student achievement.

FMSD looks ahead to a future 1-to-1 initiative as a goal, so students can continue digital learning at home. Also on the horizon, the district hopes to leverage the installation of a KINBER funded high-speed network.

## The Rest of the Story

Behind-the-scenes is a story of district leadership and teachers joining with internal and outsourced technology experts to permanently change FMSD academic achievement performance. This dedicated team is using classroom diagnostic test data to advance student achievement, and after-hours time to build and pilot more engaging digital curricula.

## Infrastructure Changes: Device Replacement and Wireless Upgrade

The Questeq FMSD Technology Team completed a device inventory, identifying the units that were the most troublesome. As a result 150 machines that were 10 years or older were removed from service and recycled. Before purchasing new devices the district consulted its students. In that way, FMSD took outdated devices that students had no desire to use, and replaced them with a fleet of Windows tablets, iPads, Kindle e-readers and new laptops outfitted with the latest Windows 8 operating system.

The district then budgeted for and set up a new procedure calling for replacement of outdated devices on a rolling 3-year cycle.

Before the transformation, login times were long and technology was handled in reactionary terms with no focus given to creating or implementing new initiatives. FMSD upgraded its network in both buildings with CAT 6 cabling. And the Middle/ High School received a complete new wireless environment, built to handle the district's dreams of a 1- to-1 device-to-student implementation.

## New Procedures: Help Desk and Technology Reservation System

Now the district tracks technology calls through an external help desk, and then can categorize calls to determine where the biggest on-going issues exist.

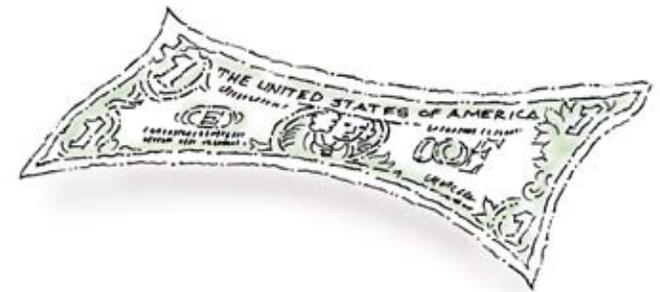
Device availability is still an issue, but is made better by FMSD's device reservation system. Carts are "resources" to be signed out in Microsoft Exchange/Outlook. The district collects the sign-out data from the system as a way to plan future purchases based on which devices are in the highest demand.

## Online Assessments – Teachers Pilot Turning Data Into Higher Achievement

All grade levels are leaving behind paper and pencil tests and are taking quarterly assessments online. Now teachers are able to view almost instant classroom diagnostic feedback. Teachers now meet with individual students to share their diagnostic results with an aim to let them know what they are doing well and where they need to focus their improvement efforts. Ultimately the district wants to move to all online testing.

Much credit must go to dedicated administration and teachers willing to pilot new digital learning, much of it on their own time. A middle school teacher is now creating student excitement using a flipped model in 7th grade math class. Another teacher group, planning to pilot Core Standards curricula, learned that there are resources needed not found in textbooks, and are now looking at the feasibility to create custom digital curriculum.

FMSD Elementary School teachers are integrating tablets into lesson plans. A handful of dedicated teachers stay after school to evaluate apps to use in the classroom. Similarly, Middle/High School Staff meetings are geared around information sharing to improve student engagement with technology. Teachers pilot the new digital learning, and then share successes using a train-the-trainer model.



## Results

It is too early to know if increased access to technology, new instructional practices and taking tests online will begin to move the district forward in state math, science and reading performance. But students are noticing that technology, instructional and administrative staffs are pulling together, giving of their own time, stretching budgets and beginning the technology and culture changes needed to permanently impact student achievement.

FMSD looks ahead to a future 1-to-1 initiative as a goal, so students can continue digital learning at home. Also on the horizon, the district hopes to leverage the installation of a KINBER funded high-speed network that seeks to empower the development of tomorrow's knowledge workers by connecting FMSD's K-12 programs with higher education and healthcare networks.

The text "ONLINE ASSESSMENTS" is displayed in a stylized, 3D, bubbly font. The letters are orange with a white outline and a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is slanted upwards from left to right.