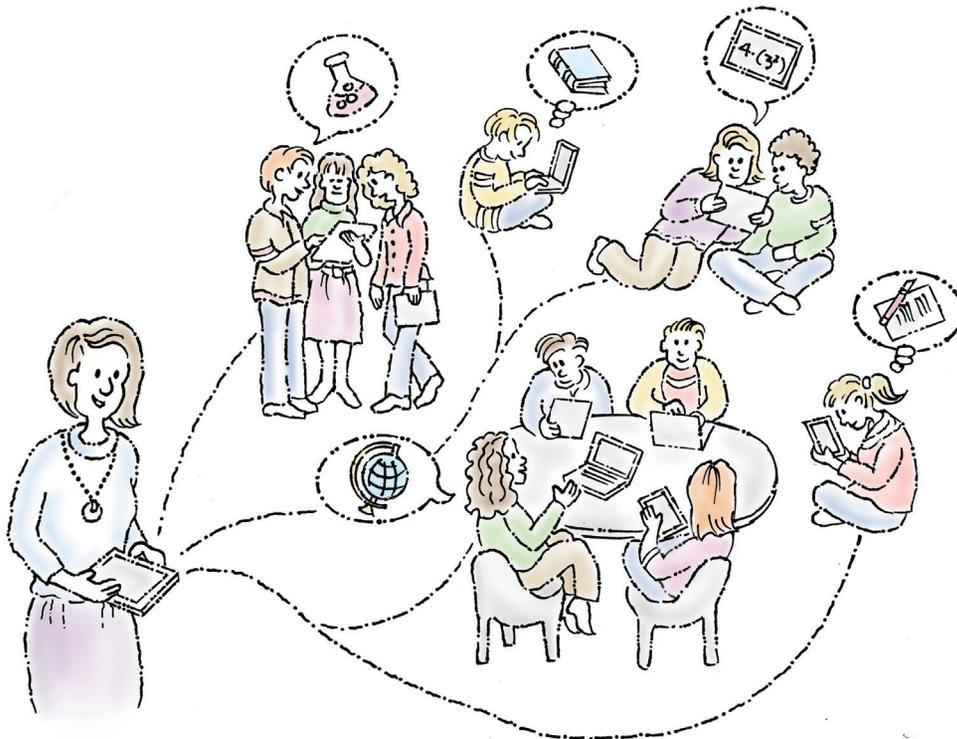


Questeq helps districts utilize their technology employees to deliver savings and better student engagement with an outsourced model.



Wilmington Area School District

Current Enrollment: About 1,300 students with 35% on free or reduced lunch.

What districts will learn from this case study:

Read about a school district that is ahead of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) curve, managing its technology to deliver more individualized learning, while covering the cost of the transformation with grants and some internal finance reallocation.

Technology transformation and move to individualized learning within the realities of a limited budget

Together with educational technology management partner, Questeq, Wilmington Area School District is making a major technology transition. The district is ahead of the curve with regard to the recently passed Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), creatively leveraging limited resources to help students truly grow individually as opposed to just performing well on standardized tests.

On track with ESSA

With the passage of ESSA, decisions about student accountability are in the states' and local school districts' hands. With less federal government pressure for students to perform well at specific testing periods during the year, standardized testing may become less frequent, and the door is opened for districts to prepare individualized programs to bolster the success of each student.

Revamped infrastructure and dual platform helps age-appropriate individualized learning

In July 2015 Wilmington's School Board approved a contract to transition the district's IT program to Questeq. The first step was right-sizing the technology department, and then implementing a more robust infrastructure and dual platform device program (iPads for younger and Chromebooks for older students).

Teacher training is key--It's not just about putting devices in students' hands

"It's not just about putting devices in student's hands," explains Dr. Michelle Miller, Wilmington Area School District Superintendent. "We're making moves to train teachers to better use technology." When Questeq started, one of the district's teachers became a technology coach. The new coach assists any teacher that wants to dream-up something with technology. "He still teaches. He just teaches teachers," adds Dr. Miller.

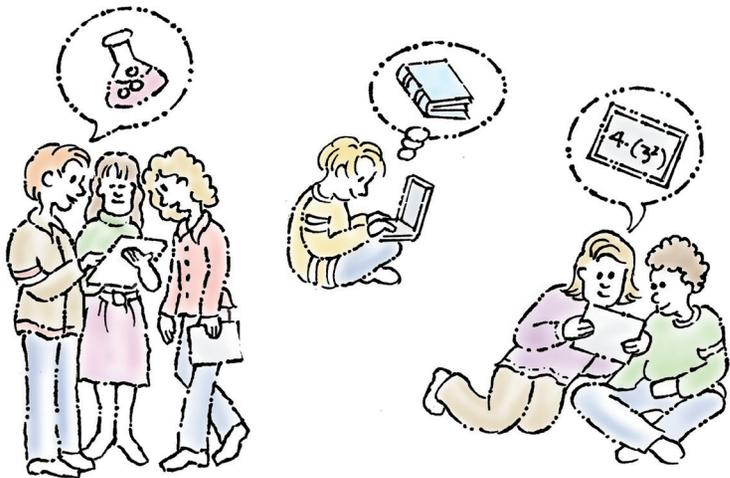
eSpark and SWAT

Wilmington is implementing programs like eSpark to assess and provide individualized learning opportunities for Wilmington students. eSpark is a pilot in the district's Pulaski Elementary School and some of the classrooms in the New Wilmington Elementary School. The program takes a baseline assessment of students and then identifies 10-15 apps to help them improve or excel in areas individual to each student.

Through a Wilmington High School program known as Students Working with Advanced Technology (SWAT), students are selected to participate in a class essentially of their own design. The student team in the SWAT program have served the district in several capacities, including assistance in hardware deployment, maintenance and repair, managing the school's social media pages, updating the website calendar and photographing school events. The program, slated for expansion, is set to develop students interested in technology via school-enabled hands-on technology practice management.

Creative funding supported by strategic technology management

Utilizing its technology employees in an outsourced model, combined with large E-rate funding grants kept projects affordable. Questeq helped Wilmington implement a major technology reformation including new wireless infrastructure, improved broadband service and internet speed, increased network security, improved data backup solutions and the deployment of hundreds of new technology devices. The district added over 100 new iPads and 250 new Chromebooks with an aim to eventually move to a 1-to1 device-to-student initiative, while covering the cost of the transformation with grants and some internal finance reallocation.



Results

"With little increase in cost we put the whole arsenal of resources, talent and expertise within Questeq at our fingertips," said Dr. Miller. "Together we've extended learning beyond the 40 minute classroom for students and teachers, and are creatively funding a technology transformation with enormous potential to improve the district's academic outcomes."

The following quote, from an article by staff writer Konstantine Fekos, in the *Sharon Herald* sums up much of the success of the district's technology transformation:

"English teacher Dr. Jenna Copper said the platform has created an efficient, almost paperless environment in which students come into class, grab a laptop and begin learning and working on assignments bell-to-bell. 'It's drastically improved student productivity,' she said. 'It's a wonderful communication tool. Students no longer have to take home certain books or physical copies of homework, diminishing the possibility of forgetting something at home or in a school locker,' Copper added. 'All materials are stored and accessible,' she said. 'There's little to no catch-up if a student misses class. Students are more engaged with technology than pencil and paper.'"