

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS STORY

Designing and delivering a new cohort professional development program



How one district partnered with SMART to create a unique and replicable live remote teacher training program

CHALLENGE

Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS), in Manassas, Virginia, is the 35th-largest school district in the nation. The district aims to provide every student with a world-class education and emphasizes the importance of authentic, meaningful, and innovative learning experiences. The 2020 pandemic's disruption of in-person learning sent teachers scrambling to find tools that supported remote and hybrid instruction. District instructional leaders realized that Lumio, (formerly SMART Learning Suite Online) was a perfect fit for remote and hybrid teaching; however, most of the district's teachers did not know about this cloud-based software. To address this challenge, the district partnered with SMART to create a new cohort professional development (PD) program. Although the district had previously used cohort learning models to build collaboration and community, this particular instance would be entirely virtual.

DISTRICT

Prince William County Public Schools,
Manassas, Virginia

Dr. LaTanya D. McDade, Superintendent
of Schools

Matthew Guilfoyle, Associate Superintendent
for Communications and Technology

A.J. Phillips, Director of Information
Technology Services

Diane Hazarin, Supervisor of Instructional
Technology

Moneka M. Lyons, Training Specialist II,
Office of Instructional Technology Services

CHALLENGE

To design and deliver a new cohort professional development program that helped teachers integrate Lumio by SMART in order to increase student engagement and improve achievement

SMART SOLUTION

Lumio™ by SMART

OUTCOME

Successful completion of the program by more than 70 teachers districtwide, all of whom gave the program a "Met" or "Exceeded Expectations" rating and felt equipped to train teachers at their schools

WHY SMART?

PWCS chose to work with SMART because of the high-quality professional development services SMART offers. Rather than using sit-and-get, presentation-style delivery techniques, SMART's PD Specialists provide interactive, immersive, and hands-on learning experiences for teachers, ensuring that what teachers learn in a session is immediately transferable to the classroom. Often, teachers leave PD sessions having created lessons ready to use with students.

During the program, teachers from across the district attended monthly live remote training sessions followed by question-and-answer coaching opportunities one to two weeks later. The district also used Canvas, its learning management system, to integrate self-paced professional learning and reflection activities. Canvas allowed teachers to take part in a community of learning, easily accessing resources, reviewing recorded sessions, and connecting with others in the program for support, idea-sharing, and feedback.

OUTCOME

More than 70 teachers from across the district completed the five-month program. Survey results showed that 100% of program participants found the program "Met" or "Exceeded Expectations," thought the program created an environment conducive to learning, and agreed that it helped them conceptualize and apply Lumio's features in a way that met student needs. Teachers who completed the program were also well-equipped to train other teachers at their individual schools, making integration of Lumio even more successful across the district.

Participant comments about the program included:

- "Excellent training. Great pace. Wonderful resources. I am so excited to show this to the teachers at my school!"
- "I was blown away by how we could build equity in learning!"
- "This program was a game-changer for us as teachers and for our students...It was also one of the best professional development opportunities I have been part of because we took what we learned immediately back to the classroom."

The district plans to replicate the program in the new school year based on the positive feedback from teachers. According to Supervisor of Instructional Technology Diane Hazarin, "The partnership between PWCS and SMART went beyond setting up accounts and sending out monthly updates. Our partnership focused on common goals centered around engaging learners, promoting equity, and designing alternative opportunities to assess learning."

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I was blown away by how we could build equity in learning!

– Program participant

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ABOUT SMART

SMART Technologies is a world leader in simple and intuitive classroom technology solutions. We are an innovator in software and interactive technologies that enable natural collaboration, helping every student and teacher discover and develop their greatness.

To learn more, visit smarttech.com.
Contact us at smarttech.com/contact.

Do you have a SMART story? Tell us at
ImplementationTeam@smarttech.com

Let's learn together.
#WeAreSMART

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