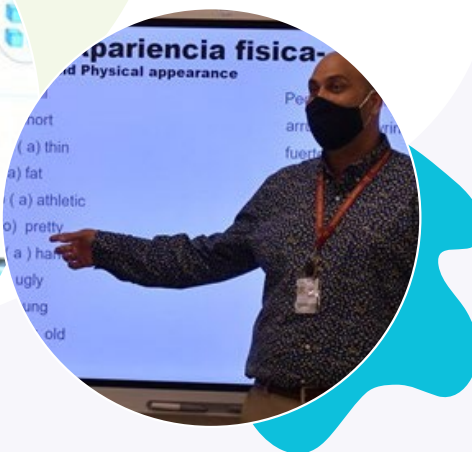




PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS STORY

How Florence 1 Schools and SMART developed a new approach to districtwide PD



Applying the flipped classroom model to a large-scale, remote teacher training program.

CHALLENGE

COVID-19 school restrictions during the 2020-21 school year drastically changed Florence 1's options for professional development. With students learning remotely for the majority of the school year, non-district staff not allowed inside school buildings, and social distancing requirements overall, Florence 1 faced a unique challenge: how could the district and SMART work together to train more than 650 elementary teachers on SMART Board® interactive displays without setting foot in the school buildings?

WHY SMART?

Florence 1's Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Kyle Jones, and District Technology Coach (DTC), Elaine Gambrell, worked with one of SMART's Professional Development (PD) Specialists to create a remote training program that included three components:

- A 15-minute flipped session video recorded by the PD Specialist, providing a foundational overview of the SMART Board with iQ

SCHOOL

Florence 1 Schools, Florence, South Carolina
 Dr. Richard O'Malley, Superintendent
 Kyle Jones, Chief Technology Officer
 Elaine Gambrell, District Technology Coach

CHALLENGE

To provide remote training on SMART Boards to more than 650 teachers across 13 elementary schools.

SMART SOLUTION

SMART Board MX series interactive display

OUTCOME

Creation of a remote training program including both self-paced and trainer-led components that resulted in 99% teacher satisfaction.

- A short reflection survey following the video, asking teachers to consider ways in which they might implement what was shown in the video as well as submit questions to be answered during the subsequent live session
- Zoom-based live sessions during teachers' non-instructional time, with one day allocated to each school, led by SMART's PD Specialist and organized by each school's Curriculum and Technology Coordinator (CTC)

Teachers completed the first two components (flipped session video and survey) at their convenience before they attended their school's scheduled live session. Survey data revealed an 81% teacher participation rate in the flipped session across all 13 elementary schools. Survey data also helped SMART's PD Specialist plan differentiated sessions according to questions teachers asked at each school—even accommodating grade-level and content-specific concerns. Part of each live session was reserved for teachers to practice and try things out on their own SMART Board while the PD Specialist provided guidance.

For the few teachers who could not attend the live session, three options were provided: attending a Saturday session, viewing the session's recording, or making a one-on-one coaching appointment with their school's CTC. If needed, a teacher could take all three options.

OUTCOME

Overall teacher satisfaction with the new training program was assessed with an optional feedback survey. Of the 296 teachers who completed the survey, 293 felt the program met or exceeded expectations, resulting in a 99% satisfaction rating.

In addition, of the 13 school-based CTCs, 69% felt the remote training program was just as effective as face-to-face training and 23% felt it was more effective. Florence 1's CTC, Kyle Jones, summed up, "SMART has been an excellent partner and invaluable resource as we strive for quality teaching and learning. We really believe we have created the next level of professional development in these trying times."

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– Kyle Jones, CTO

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

Let's learn together.
#WeAreSMART

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