90.3% Graduation Rate Achieved with High-Quality Curriculum and Virtual Instruction

San Diego Virtual School customizes learning to help at-risk students experience success

The impact of Courseware digital curriculum was examined in a mixed-methods case study at San Diego Virtual School in Southern California using data from 2018–22. The study focused on a group of 12th-grade students throughout their high school career, combining quantitative data such as successful course completion and graduation rates with qualitative insights from five educator interviews. In this implementation, Courseware was used as the core curriculum by SDVS virtual educators for all students taking core and elective courses either for first-time credit or credit recovery.

The study found that course completion rates increased tremendously over four years. For traditional courses, completion increased 11% for a 78% successful completion rate and for credit recovery courses, completion increased 30% for a 73% successful completion rate. Along with increased completion rates, most of the students were able to achieve relatively high end-of-semester assessment scores with scores in core courses ranging from 68.1% to 81.6%.

Effective use of Edmentum Courseware paired with dedicated virtual instruction led to a 2022 graduation rate of 90.3%.

About This School
- 429 students
- Southern California

Study sample:
- 172 12th-grade students
- 36% transient
- 33% homeless
- 31% temporary housing
- 12% unaccompanied students

Outcome Measure:
- Edmentum Courseware successful course completion
- Graduation rate

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Successful Course Completion Rates, Traditional vs. Credit Recovery Courses, 2018–22

Educators at SDVS implemented promising instructional approaches to ensure implementation success. SDVS key best practices included:

- Customizing course scope and sequence and activities to meet student needs
- Utilizing Courseware guided notes to foster study skills
- Leveraging live progress data to encourage on-time completion and student agency
- Checking in daily to support academic and whole-learner success
- Conducting live virtual lessons and weekly office hours

“It all starts with building that relationship. So if the teacher is able to take the time out during the beginning of the school year to really build a relationship with the students, then the engagement is a lot richer and fluid. And that’s what’s happening right now.”

SAN DIEGO VIRTUAL SCHOOL Administrator