Maximizing ED TECH's Reach in Rural School Districts
Michelle R. Davis
Senior writer, Education Week Digital Directions
Follow Michelle on Twitter: @EWmdavis
Maximizing Ed Tech’s Reach in Rural School Districts

Expert Presenters:

Matt Akin, superintendent, Piedmont City School District, Piedmont, Ala.

Adam B. Clemons, principal, Piedmont High School, Ala.

Related Article:
Alabama Superintendent Creates Digital Hub in Rural Town
An on-demand archive of this webinar will be available at www.edweek.org/go/webinar in less than 24 hrs.
Piedmont City School District
Matt Akin

Former:
Computer Science Teacher
Director of Technology
HS Principal

13th year as superintendent
Rural, Northeast Alabama

1200 Students
3 Schools
68% Free/Reduced
100 teachers
Why did we shift?

Economic (2008)
Textile-Based Economy
Dying Community
Opportunities for Kids & Community
Limited resources in a rural setting
Curriculum
Teachers
Revitalization
Initial Classroom/School Environment

Began with laptops on carts (HS pilot)
Migrated to 1:1 in 2009 (Grades 4-12)
Created a Digital Environment
   Learning Management System
   Teacher Created Digital Content
   Purchased Digital Content
Technology Enriched
Project-Based
Access

Most students did not have access at home
Difficult (impossible) to implement anytime/anywhere learning
Community partners to provide hotspots
Game Changer: E-rate pilot that provided Internet access at home
Home Access

Community wireless network
Cellular hotspots for students out of district
No (low) costs for students
Grant lasted 1 year

Shifted this year to all hotspots
Cost to student is based on income
(Title I and local funds)
2009-2016

Devices & Access
  More student access (personal learning device)
Expanded school day & year
Online Classes
Expanded Curriculum
True Personalized Learning
  Mastery-Based
Self-Paces
Student Choice
"This really is an innovative approach, but I'm afraid we can't consider it. It's never been done before."
Common Core and Assessments

What are the issues?

Curriculum

Proficiency

Student Growth
Technological Tools

Individual IEP

Mastery/Competency Based
  We need more time!
  Personalized Pace

Blended Model
  Team Time
  Class Time
  My Time
FOR A FAIR SELECTION
EVERYBODY HAS TO TAKE
THE SAME EXAM: PLEASE
CLIMB THAT TREE
Tools and PD (FUTURE?)

Quality digital curriculum is important
  Pilot programs
  Success rate of programs

Teacher PD
  Competency Based
  vs.
  Seat Time
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Piedmont High School
Adam B. Clemons, Principal of PHS for Three Years
381 Students in Grades 9-12
We don't wait until the bridge is built and a couple of tanks go across. We want to be the bridge builders.

Hank Greenberg, Former AIG CEO
Distinguished School

Piedmont City School District • Piedmont, AL
Summer Virtual Academy

Students in grade 6-11 earn high school credits

More flexibility for the student and school

Offer foreign languages, health, core and elective classes

Twenty percent of our middle and high schoolers participate

Meet once a week during the summer
Personalized Learning

WIN (What I Need)

Work to catch up on standards or get ahead

MasteryConnect
Curriculum

Professional Development

From traditional to online courses

Online during 1st, 2nd, and 7th

Expanded class options

AncestryK12 and reverse history

Three to eight AP courses, more co-taught classes, and dual enrollment possibilities

Blackboard as our learning management system
Culminating digital project for seniors

LinkedIn

Career interest inventories

Exit interviews
Evidence of Success

PHS graduates have some of the lowest percentages of students needing remediation in college English and math.

Graduation rate rose from 90% prior to technology integration to 99% today.

Over 20% of our students are out-of-district.

An Apple Distinguished School since 2009.

A 2012 Blue Ribbon School.

Recognized as the #2 “Most Connected High Schools” by US News & World Report.

100% of our graduates have been accepted to college.
Future

Won a grant for three 3-D Printers

First school in Alabama to require Principles of Computer Science to graduate

Expanding 3P to all grade levels

Expanding personalized, blended learning to all grade levels

Collaboration with a national website creation company to help students create personal websites for their personal portfolios and work with local businesses to give them an online presence.
Contact or Visit

Piedmont High School
750 Tom Bible Memorial Hwy
Piedmont, AL 36272

(256) 447-2829

www.PiemontHigh.org

Twitter: @PiedmontHS

Facebook:
Piedmont High School
How Do I Help My Students?
How can we make this better for students, clearer to parents, and easier for teachers?
## Mastery Tracker

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Student Report: **Baxter, Johnny**

- **M 6.RP.A.1** Understand the concept of a ratio and use ratio language to describe a ratio relationship.
- **NM 6.RP.A.2** Understand the concept of a unit rate $a/b$ associated with a ratio $a:b$ with $b \neq 0$, and... (truncated)
- **M 6.NS.A.1** Interpret and compute quotients of fractions, and solve word problems involving division.
- **M 6.RP.A.3** Use ratio and rate reasoning to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- **R 6.NS.B.2** Fluently divide multi-digit numbers using the standard algorithm.
- **M 6.NS.B.3** Fluently add, subtract, multiply, and divide multi-digit decimals using the standard algorithm.
- **NM 6.NS.B.4** Find the greatest common factor of two whole numbers less than or equal to 100 and the... (truncated)
- **M 6.NS.C.5** Understand that positive and negative numbers are used together to describe quantities... (truncated)
- **M 6.NS.C.6** Understand a rational number as a point on the number line. Extend number line diagrams... (truncated)
Custom Reports

### PRE TEST
- Green: 43% Mastery
- Yellow: 17% Near Mastery
- Red: 40% Remediation

### POST TEST
- Green: 76% Mastery
- Yellow: 17% Near Mastery
- Red: 7% Remediation

### PRE 1
- Green: 100% Mastery

### POST 1
- Green: 80% Mastery
- Yellow: 20% Near Mastery

### PRE 2
- Green: 40% Mastery
- Yellow: 40% Near Mastery
- Red: 20% Remediation

### POST 2
- Green: 100% Mastery

Total Students: 5
Teacher Collaboration

Edit Profile

Info
Grade: 6th
School: Highland Elementary
District: Granite
State: Utah

Following (21)

Followers (38)

Mr. Juan Batista added Ratios to a TX 6th Math tracker, 6.5.A.

Ratios
CLASS: 6th Grade
SUBJECT: Math
STANDARD: 6.5.A

January 20, 2016

Mrs. Jessica Taylor added Ratios to a TX 6th Math tracker, 6.5.A.

Ratios
CLASS: 6th Grade
SUBJECT: Math
STANDARD: 6.5.A

January 20, 2016
Assessment Resources

6.RP.1 - short quiz
CLASS: 6th Grade
SUBJECT: Math
CORE: CCSS-Traditional, CCSS-Integrated
STANDARD: 6.RP.A.1
CREATED BY: Mr. James Seaman
CREATED: August 29, 2012

Quick Check on Ratios
CLASS: 6th Grade
SUBJECT: Math
CORE: CCSS-Traditional, CCSS-Integrated
STANDARD: 6.RP.A.1
CREATED BY: Mr. John Zilla
CREATED: April 19, 2013
Get a personalized demo at

masteryconnect.com/edweek
An on-demand archive of this webinar will be available at www.edweek.org/go/webinar in less than 24 hrs.
Maximizing Ed Tech’s Reach in Rural School Districts

Required Reading from Education Week:

Spotlight on Leaders in Technology and Innovation
In this Spotlight, meet leaders who are using technology and innovation to enhance instruction and prepare students for a changing world.