

SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

South Carolina Clover School District Steps Up Virtual and In-Person Learning with *i-Ready*

Clover School District in South Carolina is a consistently top-rated district of approximately 8,900 pre-K–12 students. District leaders understand that achieving high state scores in math and reading is the result of a sustained focus on improving instruction.

They are always on the lookout for technologies that can enhance and integrate learning objectives while remaining easy for educators and students to adopt.

With pandemic-related school closures occurring during the latter part of the 2019–2020 academic year, district leaders recognized a unique opportunity to get a head start on improving instructional practices through the addition of a combined data and learning tool that would help teachers easily connect student data to personalized learning resources.

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—Dr. Millicent Dickey, Chief Academic Officer



Clover School District



STUDENTS
8,900

GRADES
Pre-K–12

TITLE I
26%

What They Did

After reviewing several options, district administrators and teachers determined that *i-Ready Assessment* and Personalized Instruction, Curriculum Associates' integrated formative assessment and instruction programs, were the best choices for their students.

With *i-Ready*, Clover educators were able to:



Implement Quickly

Once the decision was made to adopt *i-Ready* for the 2020–2021 school year, implementation, which included training and professional development (PD), ramped up quickly over the summer months. "The level of support we received in order to implement *i-Ready* on such a rapid timeline was just tremendous," said Dr. Millicent Dickey, chief academic officer. "It was always timely, and there was never a delay in getting what teachers needed."



Provide Virtual and In-Person Learning

Part of the decision to adopt *i-Ready* was that it would enable educators to support virtual and in-person learning. "We had to have something that would be easily used for students who had chosen not to come back face to face," Dickey said. "Something they could use from the home setting. *i-Ready* was a product that was user friendly for that type of situation."



Differentiate Instruction

Teachers wanted a formative assessment tool that would give them detailed insight into individual students' learning and deliver high-quality instructional resources. Once educators began using *i-Ready* and the Teacher Toolbox for *i-Ready*, a digital library of standards-based resources, they quickly realized they'd found a program that did just that. "*i-Ready* is like an endless bank of different resources, questioning types, differentiation styles, strategies, and instructional groupings," said Casey Lefler, personalized learning specialist.



Save Time

i-Ready's data dashboard has helped teachers with time management and efficiency. Clover educators found the *i-Ready* dashboard intuitive, and even those who were weary of learning a new program's interface quickly grasped how to navigate to reports and resources. "All the data reports are easy to find," Dickey said. "They're all laid out, and it's easy to see exactly how a child is performing and what they're capable of achieving. I think the data piece is just exceptional."



Undertake Relevant PD

The *i-Ready* team from Curriculum Associates understood that teachers were at different places in their mastery of the program. With this in mind, they tailored PD sessions to meet the needs of different schools and educator groups. This approach helped teachers feel connected and empowered in the implementation process and was integral to earning their buy-in.

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“The buy-in was there once they saw that **the Diagnostic was personalized for every individual student** to fill in those foundations that were missing.”

—Casey Lefler,
Personalized Learning
Specialist

What They Accomplished

Though Clover’s leaders implemented *i-Ready* during a period of incredible upheaval and uncertainty, they were struck by how smoothly the adoption process went. Dickey and other administrators attribute this “very seamless process” to Clover’s hardworking teachers and unparalleled support from the district’s *i-Ready Partners*, the Curriculum Associates support team.

In comparison to other products the district has tried, the support for implementation and ongoing success has been a differentiator for *i-Ready*. “There is a whole team of experts to help us in all different directions to bounce ideas,” Lefler said. “That’s been wonderful.”

Besides teachers and administrators buying into the process, families and students have also contributed to Clover’s successful *i-Ready* rollout. Because implementation started during virtual learning, educators had to rely heavily on families and students being willing to understand the *i-Ready* platform. It did not take long for educators, families, and students alike to learn how to navigate *i-Ready*’s user-friendly dashboard.

The fact that Clover educators started seeing improvements in student learning after just one year of using *i-Ready* got everyone excited about using the program in the future. “*i-Ready* has a good blend,” Lefler said. “It provides a good brain stretch with the lesson plans and resources.”