

# HOW SIDNEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INCREASED ENGAGEMENT FOR STUDENTS - GAVE TIME BACK TO TEACHERS AND TRANSFORMED BLENDED LEARNING FOR ADMINISTRATORS

## LEARNING STORY



**Location:**  
Sidney, NE



**Students:**  
1,312



**Demographics:**  
39% eligible for free  
or reduced-price  
lunch

As one of Nebraska's larger rural communities, Sidney has a population of 6,000 individuals, serving 1,312 students of 10% Hispanic, 1% Black / African-American, 2% Asian, 0.2% American Indian or Alaska Native, and 85% White heritage. The community draws an influx of students from Denver, CO and other large cities due to emerging opportunities at a large local industry. The mix of students plus the fact that 39% of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and 2% of students are English language learners posed personalized learning challenges.

Rick Meyer, principal of Sidney Elementary School needed a way to visualize and manage learning success as well as increase student engagement. He adopted Mosaic™ by ACT®: Adaptive Academic Learning, eight years ago to administer digital quizzes to check for student understanding, short and long-term retention, and effectiveness of lessons. Today, all K-6 students in the district have Math and ELA weekly goals and teachers assign students NWEA's Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)-aligned learning paths.

**"The workload that Mosaic by ACT takes off of a teacher that truly embraces it, is amazing - best part of the platform."**

**Rick Meyer** | Principal Sidney Public Schools

## OUTCOMES

### STUDENTS

- Increased engagement, motivation and familiarity with technology
- Improved problem solving skills
- Increased mastery rates aligned with standards

### TEACHERS

- Matching custom content to each student's needs
- Greater flexibility for instruction
- More time spent teaching rather than curating content

### ADMINS

- Visualization of student progress
- Innovative learning methodology
- Critical for district shift to blended learning