

NEWS RELEASE

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Aurora School Improves Student Achievement with One-to-One Computing Solution from Wyse Technology and Lrn2Innovate

Wyse Technology and Lrn2Innovate announced the deployment of a one-to-one computing pilot project for grade school students in the Indian Prairie School District 204 of Illinois. The project, funded by the Dunham Fund, is designed to raise student achievement through the use of cloud-based computing for all students in the classroom.

The project provides a computer for every student in a classroom which provides a variety of benefits including delivering the most advanced instructional content while allowing students at different learning levels to receive instruction specific to their learning needs. The teacher is then free to focus instructional efforts where they are needed most.

The pilot project creates a math instruction laboratory for middle school students, an age group directly linked to graduation success rates, at Fischer Middle School in Aurora, IL. The project will measure and quantify the affect of one-to-one learning on student achievement and provide a model for improving outcomes for all students.

The project has been deployed by Lrn2Innovate, an education infrastructure provider founded by William C. Lowe, who spearheaded IBM's first personal computer and coined the term "PC". Lrn2Innovate is focused on addressing the critical needs for improved instruction in classrooms. "We are at a very pivotal point in education," said Cristina Salvatierra Lowe, CEO of Lrn2innovate. "The education system is facing a financial, achievement and dropout crises. There are critical issues of poverty, language barriers and a myriad of social, as well as economic needs that schools are expected to meet. "One-to-one computing provides an innovative tool to help schools address critical needs and transform classrooms in a cost-effective manner.

The laboratory houses Wyse Technology thin client computers using IBM System X server hardware and IBM active monitoring to provide innovative instructional content to students. "We are using thin client technology in a way that facilitates learning unachievable in years past. It's a tremendous breakthrough and Fischer Middle School is setting the pace for the Chicago region," said Tarkan Maner, President and CEO of WYSE." The collaborative effort was led by the Superintendent, Principal, Teacher and District IT team of Indian Prairie to develop a successful one-to-one learning model to drive achievement and core competency in subjects such as Math and Science and we are excited to be a part of this promising solution worldwide . "Wyse is the leading supplier of thin client hardware products and has implemented education, financial and health care solutions for large customers globally utilizing their unique streaming software. Wyse Technology has brought their solution to education institutions n South Africa, Europe and Asia.

Indian Prairie School District 204 is the third largest school district in the state of Illinois serving over 29,500 students and is a leader in implementing advanced instructional technology. “Today more than ever, schools need an affordable, reliable and efficient way to deploy and manage desktop infra-structures,” said Mark Kreiter, Director of Curriculum at Indian Prairie School District 204. “In addition to energy and IT savings, a cloud-based delivery model, allows schools to disperse new curriculum to schools simultaneously and seamlessly while cutting energy and IT costs.”

Teachers see advantages as well. “I am able to differentiate instruction with the use of technology. Now when my higher learners finish early they have enrichment activities to work on while I give attention to my struggling learners,” says teacher and Math Specialist, Shestine Gesboker, at Fischer Middle School. “My students stay on task during the entire class period because they are working at their own pace. I am able to differentiate instruction for all learners.”

The project was funded by Dunham Fund, the largest foundation operating in the Aurora, IL area. “We focus on education because our founder, John Dunham, rightly believed it was the way to bring about long term improvement in people’s lives,” said Ryan Maley, chairperson of the Fund. “The Fischer Middle School project exemplifies the kind of innovative program that can bring about long-term positive change in our community.”

Indian Prairie School District 204 and the collaborative partners are currently developing pre- and post assessment tools to measure the true impact of the program on student achievement and continually improve the delivery of instruction to students.

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The Dunham Fund is a private foundation established in 2006 to honor the legacy of John C. Dunham, businessman and philanthropist, through grants to Aurora, Illinois area organizations that have the vision and programs to help fulfill Mr. Dunham’s dream of “making the world a more comfortable, safer place for mankind to live and prosper.”

For more information visit the Dunham Fund at www.dunhamfund.org