

PowerUp: Taking Technology Integration to the Next Level in K-12

Challenge	Solution	Learning Impact Outcomes	Return on Instruction
<p>To close the digital divide and transform traditional instruction approaches into successful blended and personalized learning experiences, available anytime and anywhere, in a major urban school district with large numbers of low-income students and English language learners.</p>	<p><i>PowerUp</i> – a multi-year, comprehensive initiative to transform teaching and learning that leveraged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technology (a 1:1 laptop program in high schools); • a robust and customizable LMS and LOR for all schools that connected easily with other digital platforms, tools and resources used to support teaching and learning in the district (itslearning); • a firm commitment to open interoperability standards for those digital platforms, tools, and resources (IMS Global); • the creation of student-facing, online master courses to support blended instruction and formative assessment in all secondary core courses; • the provision of an extensive, curated, and meta-tagged collection of instructional materials and resources in the LMS LOR (itslearning Library) and via SSO to providers’ own platforms; • comprehensive instructional technology professional development and technical support to teachers and school leaders; and • an unambiguous statement of the district’s vision, expectations, and supports for <i>PowerUp</i> communicated throughout the organization. 	<p>Houston ISD’s <i>PowerUp</i> program has allowed students to engage in highly interactive, personalized, and transformational learning experiences using digital tools, resources, and strategies. To date <i>PowerUp</i> has resulted in a coherent and tightly integrated 1:1 laptop rollout for all high school students; a learning management system for teachers and students in all grades; standards-aligned curriculum and student-facing master course development that leverages effective instructional practices, strategies, and resources; and a teacher coaching and appraisal system aligned to these transformation goals.</p> <p><i>PowerUp</i> has provided students with a personalized and differentiated learning experience with opportunities to explore, create, and collaborate. Its use of meta-tagged resources and standards enhances the learning experience significantly for students at every stage of instruction, including interventions and independent explorations, as resources can be more closely associated with specific needs and learning paths. Collaborative functionality supports cross content-area project-based learning. As the district moves into the new school year, <i>PowerUp</i> will provide key tools to expand the district’s literacy work into high school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Student Achievement Recent assessment data suggest that reaching all students with targeted activities and resources in <i>PowerUp</i> has contributed to an all-student increase in student passing rates on state end-of-course tests for high school students. • Anytime, Anywhere Access Students have 24/7 access to the district’s LMS and its resources from any type of device. • Expanded Access to Resources Acquisition and use of curated resources – including adopted instructional materials, resource collections, teacher-created materials, and freely available OER’s – loaded in a LOR as TCC’s tagged to keywords and state standards ensure that both teachers and students can readily search for and access quality, aligned, and appropriate resources. Additionally, LTI integration supports SSO access to vendors’ platforms for materials hosted there. Digital resources are more easily adapted to support the needs of special populations. • Cost Savings Moving to digital resources has reduced spending on traditional textbooks and allowed the district to purchase supplementary digital resources to support literacy and English language instruction. • Increased Collaboration and Innovation Students, teachers, and administrators have new opportunities to engage with others unbounded by classrooms and campuses.