District Spotlight
Chesterfield County Public Schools, VA
Edmodo helps district support “Design for Excellence 2020” strategic plan and scale blended learning.

The Opportunity
In early 2012, Chesterfield County Public Schools (CCPS) identified a need for a teaching and learning platform that could:

1. Meet a variety of communication and instructional needs
2. Integrate with existing district systems like Google Docs
3. Roll out to the entire district in less than a year

The district created a Request for Proposal and considered investing a large portion of its budget in the development of a next-generation learning management system (LMS)—until it discovered that a large number of teachers were already using Edmodo, a social learning platform built by educators for educators.

The Solution
CCPS found that teachers favored Edmodo because of peer recommendations and for its:

• Familiar and intuitive user interface
• Seamless communication between teachers and students
• Easy-to-build formative assessments
• Engaging educational apps
• Accessibility from any device
• Informal professional development opportunities
• Teacher-contributed open educational resources

edmodo.com
One of the most important adoption factors was increased student engagement. Experience with similar platforms meant that students quickly and easily embraced Edmodo. Through message notifications and access to the mobile app, students could communicate with their teachers and learning experience.

CCPS decided to move forward with Edmodo as its introductory and primary tool for blended learning. To start the process, CCPS established an Edmodo subdomain, which gave district administrators the ability to manage and support site usage, as well as foster district-wide communication and collaboration. They then trained 4,200 teachers over the course of three days during summer break, in preparation for the 2012-13 school year.

The Results
With Edmodo’s free platform, CCPS now has a successfully executed blended learning strategy and:

- Budget that can be reallocated
- Increased student engagement
- Near district-wide adoption

In addition to demonstrating its value inside the classroom, Edmodo helped CCPS understand the importance of selecting a tool that:

- Lets teacher preferences guide the process (bottom up supported by top down)
- Emphasizes the simple and flexible over the complex and cumbersome
- Helps push the envelope by taking blended learning to scale

What’s Next?
Building on this momentum, CCPS is working to scale its blended learning efforts in the 2013-14 school year, through an expanded digital ecosystem in which Edmodo serves as the hub. The district is also purchasing supplemental curriculum materials through the Edmodo Store, in response to increasing student use of integrated apps.

To encourage further collaboration, the district is developing a network of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) within Edmodo. Organized by subject area, these PLCs will enable districts to disseminate core curriculum resources in a collaborative space where teachers can also share best practices and ideas with each other.

“Not going with a traditional LMS turned out to be a great decision, not just from a fiscal standpoint, but also in terms of teacher satisfaction and usage. If we purchased a more traditional LMS, a large percentage of our teachers may never have used it, or at least not to its capacity, without extensive training.”

Dr. Adam Seldow
CCPS Executive Director of Technology