

Improving Outcomes through Intervention, Test Preparation, and Individualized Learning

Onalaska Independent School District, Onalaska, Texas



Edmentum Products:

- Courseware
- EdOptions Academy
- Exact Path
- Study Island

About the District:

- 1,110 students
- Grades K-12
- 71.4% economically disadvantaged
- 11.4% special education

Challenge

Onalaska Independent School District serves the small city of Onalaska, Texas, which is located about 80 miles north of Houston on a peninsula of Lake Livingston. Educators in Onalaska ISD are always looking for innovative ways to meet the needs of their students. In 2016, the partnership between Onalaska ISD and Edmentum began when the district was looking for a new online curriculum provider to support credit recovery and provide additional course options. Helping to lead the implementation are Robyn Thornton, former curriculum director and now principal of Onalaska Junior Senior High School (JSHS), and Jessica Caso, school counselor at Onalaska JSHS.

Solution

Onalaska Independent School District serves the small city of Onalaska, At Onalaska JSHS, educators work to make sure that all students are prepared for each of their state tests (STAAR end-of-course), are able to receive targeted intervention when they are struggling and have access to all of the courses they need to graduate college and career ready.

EOC Preparation

To prepare students for the STAAR assessments, Onalaska ISD utilizes Study Island, Edmentum's formative assessment and practice program.

"The teachers who had tested areas on the STAAR test went through and created [assignments] that the students could complete outside of school or during their homeroom period," explained Mrs. Thornton. "They jump-started that program by having a parent night where they introduced the parents to Study Island, showed them how to log in with their students, what their students should be working on, and how to

Students grew by two grade levels

Onalaska Independent School District, Onalaska, Texas

check to see how far along the students were progressing. Then, they had the students complete those [assignments] for extra points in their regular class.”

The assignments that teachers created targeted the standards that students had the most trouble with, and parents were especially pleased with how Study Island made it easy for them to support their students’ learning.

“And, it just took off from there,” explained Mrs. Caso. “We just saw leaps and bounds of growth for our kids. [Study Island] is our baby. That is our pride and joy right now.”

Targeted Intervention

Onalaska JSHS has implemented a program to make sure that 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students who need the most support receive targeted intervention every day. Students who are not proficient in reading or math based on prior STAAR results, class grades, or another measure have an RTI class period built into their schedules. During that class period, students work on Exact Path, Edmentum’s K–12 adaptive assessment and personalized instruction program.

The RTI program was extremely successful in helping students achieve growth.

“On average, our students grew by two grade levels using Exact Path in [the RTI teacher’s] classroom,” said Mrs. Thornton. “[Exact Path] was a huge piece in our success this year.”

More Course Options

To make sure that students can take the courses they need and want despite hectic schedules and staffing challenges, the district utilizes Courseware, Edmentum’s online curriculum, and EdOptions Academy, Edmentum’s fully accredited virtual school, which combines Courseware with state-certified teachers. The type of course and availability of an on-campus teacher to facilitate the course determines which program is implemented to meet the need.

- Students who need courses that aren’t offered by the district or who need a course for which an on-campus teacher isn’t available, take the course through EdOptions Academy.
- If there is a certified teacher to facilitate the course but there aren’t enough students taking it to warrant a full class period, or if a student has a scheduling conflict with the time the course is offered, the student takes the course through Courseware with the Onalaska ISD teacher serving as the teacher of record.



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JESSICA CASO
School Counselor,
Onalaska, Texas



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- All Onalaska students take Spanish 1 and 2 through Edmentum Courseware with an on-campus facilitator.
- Edmentum Courseware is also used as the curriculum for many of the CTE courses offered on campus, including digital media, commercial photography, and graphic design. Teachers utilize the tutorials, mastery tests, and unit assessments in the Edmentum courses, alongside the teachers' hands-on instruction.

Result

Educators at Onalaska ISD experience the fruits of their labor every day through student engagement and improved achievement. The district received results of the first round of STAAR end-of-course assessments, and they are outstanding, with large improvements across all high school subjects from 2018 to 2019.

"I think the unique thing about Edmentum . . . is it meets all students," said Mrs. Thornton. "I mean, whether they're above grade level [or] below grade level, it meets them where they are. And so, there's something for everybody within Edmentum."



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