



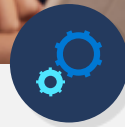
Fast-tracking student learning and boosting teacher productivity through Microsoft Teams and Discovery Education

In the field of education, digital transformation has revolutionized the classroom with the potential to enhance student learning effectiveness, while reducing the burden on teachers in terms of time and effort.

A challenging learning environment

Onslow County School District, located in Eastern North Carolina with 40 schools and 28,000 students, is committed to the pursuit of accelerated learning through equitable access and faculty empowerment. Faced with unique challenges as a result of a highly transient military population, the district requires adaptable solutions for both students and teachers. By championing one-to-one device initiatives and integrating Microsoft Teams, Office 365, and Discovery Education resources, the district strives to achieve genuinely inclusive education tailored to individual learners' needs.

The demographics of Onslow County are notably influenced by its close proximity to Camp Lejeune, the largest Marine Corps base on the East Coast, resulting in approximately 40% of students being military dependents. This unique connection leads to disruptions in educational continuity, primarily attributed to the frequent turnover of both students and teachers. Specifically, many teachers in the region are military spouses, which contributes to the high volume of teacher turnover.



A seamless experience for teachers and students



Faster onboarding for new teachers



Enhanced digital assistant capabilities



Better student outcomes

INDUSTRY: Education

INDUSTRY PRIORITY SCENARIO: To accelerate learning with equitable access for learner empowerment and provide faculty with tools for best engagement.



This synergy is incredibly powerful and AI-driven solutions contribute to teacher support, effectively amplifying their capabilities. This gives teachers a digital assistant as they can now leverage these tools to enhance accessibility and student differentiation. This setup significantly boosts teacher productivity and effectiveness."

Stephen Taylor,
Director of Digital Learning Teaching Services
at Onslow County Schools



The district embarked on its journey towards equitable access and student empowerment by implementing one-to-one device initiatives in 2014. Ensuring uninterrupted learning regardless of location or circumstances, each student is provided with a device. Microsoft Teams became the cornerstone of the Learning Management System (LMS) in 2017, seamlessly integrating digital tools into the educational landscape.

Overcoming barriers to learning

Onslow County's progress toward achieving its goals of inclusivity and engagement hinge on its partnership with Microsoft and Discovery Education. Leveraging Microsoft's communication, collaboration, and creation capabilities, coupled with Discovery Education's engaging learning platform and curricula, has enabled horizontal and vertical interaction among staff and students. This integration, along with the unified suite of tools, aids in flattening the learning curve. Discovery Education's robust resources for K-8, tackle challenges posed by transient students and teachers by centralizing content for all subject areas, streamlining onboarding, and saving teachers time with ready-to-use, standards-aligned lessons and instructional strategies.

Language diversity is also addressed through Microsoft Teams' Immersive Reader, which provides features such as text-to-speech, translation, and dyslexia-friendly formatting, facilitating engagement for bilingual students and those with learning differences.

Fast-tracking progress and fostering engagement

An exceptional aspect of Onslow County's digital transformation is the integration of Microsoft Teams' Learning Accelerators, especially Reading Progress. This tool revolutionizes the teacher's ability to track and augment student reading abilities, providing the ability for real-time feedback, while facilitating language development and correcting any missing fundamentals in the foundations of reading.

The district's commitment to faculty engagement and teacher efficiency is evident in the integration of Discovery Education into Microsoft Teams.

This synergistic approach empowers teachers, ensuring a consistent and familiar platform for content dissemination and collaboration. Furthermore, by leveraging AI-driven solutions, teachers are better equipped with the ability to differentiate and identify where students need additional support, without requiring additional effort from already over-burdened staff.

Toward a digital-first learning future

As the partnership between Onslow County, Discovery Education, and Microsoft continues, the district remains dedicated to refining its digital ecosystem. The embracing of technology holds the potential for increased student engagement, superior learning outcomes, and comprehensive accessibility—essentially allowing teachers to do more, with less. By pioneering equitable and inclusive education, Onslow County is poised to lead the way in creating a more inclusive learning environment that accommodates the unique needs of every student.



About Discovery Education:

Discovery Education is the worldwide edtech leader. Through its award-winning multimedia content, instructional supports, innovative classroom tools, and social impact initiatives, Discovery Education serves approximately 4.5 million educators and 45 million students worldwide.

About Onslow County Schools:

Onslow County Schools is the 11th largest district in the state of North Carolina with over 28,000 students currently enrolled. The district has 41 educational facilities, including 22 elementary schools, 8 middle schools, 7 high schools, as well as, an early college high school, an early childhood development center, an alternative learning program and the Eastern North Carolina Regional Skills Center.