



Overview

INDUSTRY

Education, K-12

PROFILE

The School District of Pickens County in South Carolina instructs 16,000 students in 24 schools.

CHALLENGE

Students were losing instruction time because of school closures on storm days.

SOLUTION

ClassLink made it possible for Pickens to hold digital learning days where students continue learning at home when schools are closed. With one username and password, students login in to ClassLink Launchpad and access all their online learning resources including apps and assignments.



PROJECT LEAD

Barbara Nesbitt

Assistant Superintendent for
Technology Services

School District of Pickens County Combats School Closures with ClassLink

Reducing the Impact School Closures Have on Learning

Like most districts, the School District of Pickens County (SDPC) in South Carolina loses instructional days throughout the year when schools are forced to close because of inclement weather like ice storms and hurricanes. The immediate impact is a missed day of learning, but teachers find they continue to lose time when they're back in the classroom. Most have to review, or in some cases, re-teach lessons that happened before a storm day to refresh students' memories. The district added makeup days to the end of the school year, but many weren't convinced they were beneficial.

Making Digital Learning Days Possible with ClassLink

In 2018, SDPC was chosen as one of five districts in the state to pilot digital learning days as a way for students to learn from home during school closures.

"One of the tools that made digital learning days possible was our ClassLink single sign-on portal," says Barbara Nesbitt, Assistant Superintendent for Technology Services.

On a digital learning day, students can sign into ClassLink Launchpad on any digital device at home to access assignments and online learning resources, just like they do at school. "We have ClassLink, which our students use every single day in every single class. So asking them to log on was the same as doing it in the classroom, but instead, they're on their couch in their pajamas," says fourth-grade teacher Rachael Hugg.

Digital Learning Days are the "New Norm" for SDPC

"I was convinced that it was just going to be an avalanche of snark from students who didn't want to be doing anything on a snow day. But really, most of what we got back was from parents who were excited about what their children were learning that day," says John Eby, Coordinator of communication.

Today, Nesbitt says digital learning days ensure learning continues, even when students can't be in the classroom. "It's just the new norm for us. There's no going back, and tools like Classlink made digital learning days possible for us."

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Barbara Nesbitt, Pickens County Public Schools