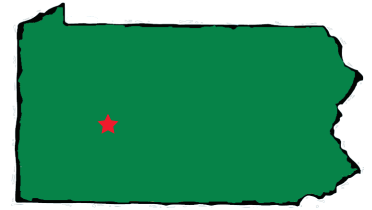




Success Story



100 Percent Success

A+LS™ Courseware Helps Indiana Prevent High-Risk Students from Dropping Out.

Located in Western Pennsylvania, the Indiana Area School District is made up of just over 3,000 students in its six buildings. With the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) within its district borders, the rural district has a diverse student population with approximately 25% of its students considered economically disadvantaged. The demographic breakdown is 90% Caucasian, 4% African American, and 4% Asian.

Though 78.6% of the student population plans to attend college, Indiana High School wanted to directly address students who were most likely to dropout and create a focused program to graduate all of its students.

In today's era of soaring dropout rates, it might seem miraculous that the Indiana Area Senior High School in Indiana, PA, was able to prevent 13 out of 13 of the students deemed at highest risk for dropping out of high school from quitting. The school achieved this stunning success after installing the *A+nyWhere Learning System® (A+LS™)* courseware program from Oklahoma City-based American Education Corporation, a leading provider of research-based core curriculum instructional software.

“We’re talking about kids who had straight F’s on their report card,” states Matthew Scaife, Alternative Education Coordinator at Indiana Senior High School. “We gave these students an opportunity to come into the *A+LS* program; they elected to participate and success followed.”

At a Glance

School Location: Indiana, PA

Challenge: Students with failing GPAs were at risk of dropping out.

Solution: Network deployed implementation of the *A+nyWhere Learning System* to allow choices for students and individualized curriculum.

Result: Self-paced participation led to the retention of 13 of 13 “high-risk” students and increased their GPAs from a failing average to a C average in just one school year.



Indiana Area Senior High School, Indiana, PA.

Before installing *A+LS*, Scaife conducted his own research into what made alternative education programs successful. A review of the research revealed that programs that were able to keep kids in school provided choices for students. The best ones relied on a non-traditional curriculum approach like the program offered by *A+LS*, a network-based, e-learning instruction courseware solution that contains more than 5,200 lessons; at least 200,000 content pages of research and objective-based, problem-solving, K-12 courseware; plus assessment, alignment, and curriculum management tools.

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— MATTHEW SCAIFE,
ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION COORDINATOR,
INDIANA AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL,
INDIANA, PA



Indiana Area Senior High School, Indiana, PA.



A student works with *A+LS* at Indiana Area Senior High School.

The district installed *A+LS* at the beginning of the 2007 school year. They chose *A+LS* because it provided them with the ability to individualize curriculum for every student. They were also keen to find a package that provided the flexibility to align content with Indiana’s own district-approved content. “*A+LS* had the courses that we wanted and different levels of content that we needed,” he stated. “It also had a unique framework that gave us the flexibility to include multiple choice, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and essay questions in our lessons.”

Pace Setting

Indiana’s high drop-out prevention success rate might at first sound incredible, but this amazing accomplishment was achieved through months of school-level planning that included the thoughtful implementation of *A+LS*. Working closely with the Pennsylvania re-seller, Point Click Learn (PCL) and representative Linda Hanlon, a plan was developed that included the *A+LS* Curriculum, comprehensive training by Certified Trainer Ron Spicher of PCL, as well as a highly structured follow-up plan. This early and ongoing support by Point Click Learn helped Indiana High School provide a very effective online curriculum for their alternative education students.

One of the keys to Indiana’s success, according to Scaife, was allowing the students to set their

own pace for each lesson. “If a student needed extra study time, the software gave them the flexibility to spend the needed time to master the lesson,” he stated. “With *A+LS*, the teacher is able to spend more time fine-tuning delivery of instruction and closely focusing on the instructional need of each student. Further, we were able to individualize the material for each student. Depending on the course, *A+LS* allowed us to adjust the program to work at the best instructional level for each student. This can’t be done in a traditional classroom.”

Once the students began to achieve success with *A+LS*, they became extremely motivated. Soon many students began asking Scaife if they could retake tests – believing they could do better. This is the same group of students, who only weeks before, refused to do schoolwork and take tests. Now, they were choosing to do more than was required of them, and they demonstrated concern for their grades.

Now that Scaife had a year’s worth of experience with *A+LS*, he’s beginning to chart a course with the district that will see the creation of new courses powered by *A+LS* that will align both reading and math with Pennsylvania state standards. The district plans to call these classes PSSA (Pennsylvania State Standards Assessment) Proficiency courses. With students working on lessons that target a specific area of instructional need, the district hopes to raise the school’s performance on standardized tests.

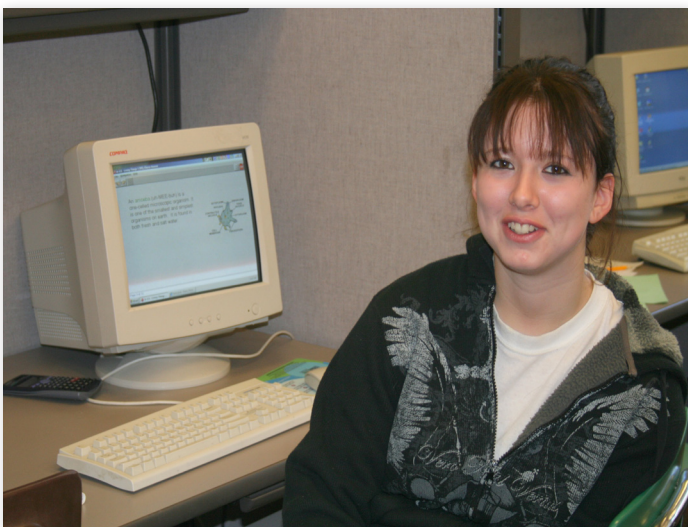
So far, Scaife has found *A+LS* ideal for this purpose. “*A+LS* made this process easy,” he states. “I was given more credit than was deserved. Using *A+LS*, I was able to select how I wanted each state standard set up. For instance, Mathematics is broken into eight standards. I was able to click on buttons and select which standards I wanted and have the curriculum aligned at every level. By doing so, I was able to set it up as a course. *A+LS* did all the work.”

Another Good Point

A+LS didn’t just help Indiana keep a high percent of its high-risk kids in school. Scaife also credits the program for improving student grade point averages. Remarkably, Scaife saw students at an F-grade GPA level rise to a C-grade level during the course of one year. “Clearly, we’re seeing significant improvement with *A+LS*,” Scaife adds. As Scaife’s kids find success in Indiana’s alternative program, they are given the choice of either staying in the program or returning to the traditional classroom setting. So far, Scaife states, everybody has chosen to stay. However, he quickly adds,

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INDIANA, PA



A student works with *A+LS* at Indiana Area Senior High School.

the standards have not been lowered or watered down – the students report they work harder now than they ever did in school. The students earn their grades, and in fact, if anything, the students are taking content that is more difficult than the courses they were scheduled to take in the traditional setting.”

Scaife sees such promise in *A+LS* that he’s decided to expand the program into the school’s mainstream curriculum. To date, Scaife has set *A+LS* to work in a supplemental fashion in the school’s math courses.

“A lot of schools only teach subjects the traditional way, but *A+LS* offers general student populations supplemental instruction within the traditional classroom setting,” Scaife says. “We’ve found that mainstream students will use the program to help them microscopically focus on aspects of the lesson that they need to work on.”

Today, Indiana has fifty-nine different courses from *A+LS*. Through strong leadership from the superintendent, support from the district’s school board, and a collaborative team approach from the In-House content area teachers with each of their academic departments, the alternative

program has aligned the *A+LS* courses with the district-approved classes. “Now,” Scaife concludes, “we’re able to say, ‘Yes, have that class in our In-House Program, plus we can offer lessons to the other teachers in the building to supplement instruction in their class.’ With *A+LS* – there are numerous possibilities to utilize the program – from differentiating the delivery of instruction to differentiating the content for individual students within the same classroom.”

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About American Education Corporation (AEC)

Early recognition of the national trend in school accountability, combined with an understanding of the impact of the Internet on education, has allowed AEC to become an industry leader in e-learning solutions. Few education companies offer the systemized combination of formative assessment, proven instruction, alignment to standards, and data management and reporting capabilities of AEC’s comprehensive courseware and learning management system.

The *A+nyWhere Learning System*[®] (*A+LS*[™]) software program is an e-learning solution ideal for schools searching for more efficient ways to improve their instructional processes. The *A+LS* courseware program consists of an award-winning instructional management system supported by significant core curriculum content for grades K–12 and adult learners delivered through a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), or the Internet. The research-based curriculum content is in the subject areas of Reading, Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, Writing, and Social Sciences. This curriculum is linked to state standards and combined with valuable formative assessment tests designed to guide instruction throughout the school year — as well as give school administrators the data they need to ensure maximum student performance.

Would you like to learn more about the *A+nyWhere Learning System*?

Give us a call at 800.222.2811 to arrange a custom product demonstration with your local licensed product reseller or check us out on the web at www.amered.com

A+ Success Story

Indiana Senior High School, Pennsylvania