

Red River Charter Academy: Scores Increase when Staffed with 100% Certified Virtual Teachers

The Opportunity: Consecutive Low Scores Call for Major Change

Facing a shortage of certified teachers in their area, Red River Charter Academy (RRCA) turned to Proximity Learning to provide qualified livestream Spanish and coding teachers. The program was immediately successful, so RRCA looked to expand the partnership.

After struggling with low test scores in core subjects for over three years and looming threats from the state, Red River Charter Academy Executive Director Charles Jones leveraged his Proximity Learning partnership to enhance staff competencies.

Many of his faculty were burned out and unmotivated. Frustrated with the lack of certified, passionate teachers, Jones was at wit's end as a school leader. In a bold move, he decided to dismiss ineffective onsite staff and hire Proximity Learning expert teachers for the remainder of the school year.

It was a radical experiment that took a huge leap of faith – but, with his students' education and futures on the line, it wasn't a tough choice to make.

Jones says, "Of all the online resources that we looked at, Proximity was the only one that seemed to be concerned with what challenges we face. They were genuinely interested in solving the problems that we had here at RRCA."

About Red River Charter

Red River Charter Academy's mission is to prepare a diverse group of students for post-secondary success through rigorous academics and character development. RRCA serves students grades 6-12 in Mansura, Louisiana.



The Solution: Master Teachers Train the Remaining Faculty

Collaborating with the remaining staff, Proximity Learning master teachers stepped in to teach every core and specialty course at Red River Charter Academy - 28 classes serving over 150 students. Proximity livestream teachers plan lessons, instruct courses, and create assignments so students receive a high-quality education. They implement engaging lessons and an effective curriculum to prepare students for upcoming standardized tests.

Principal DeEtte Loyd says, "It gives every one of our students the opportunity to have that master teacher in the classroom - one that is well-versed in their subject area. It opened up their eyes to see that there's more to the world than what's just right here in Mansura, Louisiana."

The onsite teachers partner with the Proximity teachers to facilitate inside the classroom, conduct one-on-one sessions with students, and learn teaching techniques from expert educators. The Proximity teachers share pedagogical strategies and classroom management techniques. RRCA received double the value from virtual educators: teaching students and training teachers simultaneously.

Red River Charter Academy saw an immediate improvement in student scores and engagement. They also received positive feedback from the onsite teachers. Principal Loyd says, "Our teachers love it because of the opportunities it gives them. There are things that they learned that they will carry with them throughout their educational experience. [...] They learned new tricks of the trade that make them more efficient and more effective, so they can help their students become successful in the years to come." Proximity Learning provides a well-rounded education for both students and teachers.

"They solved all our problems," Charles Jones says. "It was a no-brainer to me."

"Proximity was the fastest way for me to add certified teachers to our campus. It solves all of our problems."

Charles Jones, RRCA Executive Director



The Results: Student Test Scores Immediately Increase

Since implementing certified livestream teachers in every classroom, student scores have increased in the classroom and on standardized tests.

Because of the effective livestream instruction, grades increased between 5% to 56% in all core subjects from the 2021-22 to the 2022-23 school year. State standard LEAP scores saw a two-point gain. Not only did their students meet the state standards, but many also scored at the Mastery and Advanced Levels.

In 2021-22, ACT scores averaged 13.1. In 2022-23, ACT scores increased to an average of 13.8. "Last year, our highest score was a 22. This year it's a 25." Overall, Red River Charter Academy increased from an F to a D rating.

The numbers are clear - livestream instruction from Proximity Learning effectively increases standardized test scores. Furthermore, RRCA's onsite teachers are receiving expert training to grow in their professional development.

"Since implementing Proximity, we have seen a definite increase in our students' standardized test performance."

Charles Jones, RRCA Executive Director



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