



2017 IMS Learning Impact Award Summary

Challenge: In October of 2016, the Berkeley County School District in South Carolina started their ambitious journey to create from scratch, a new virtual economics course that is required for South Carolina high school graduation. The need for this effort stemmed from students who could not fit this course into their schedule, those who were trying to graduate early, or who needed to retake the course due to a failing grade. This resulted in Berkeley County building out a virtual program made possible by thin common cartridges and LTI standards.

Solution: Before starting the pilot, the district collaborated with teachers to identify both paid and district created OER resources to build out the curriculum. Pearson was one of the content providers chosen for the pilot. Pearson has been at the forefront of LTI standards and worked with the district to provide the economics program via thin common cartridge within Canvas, the district LMS, as part of their digital purchase. This allowed teachers and curriculum leaders the ability to pick and choose which units to include alongside the other resources they had identified.

Learning Impact Outcomes: This pilot arose from the district need to create a supplemental economics course that students could take solely online. Given the digital setting, it was only fitting that the district choose online resources for the curriculum. This course catered to the students who needed the course to graduate but could not fit it into their schedule. Since beginning the pilot three students have gone on to graduate using the credit that the course offered and have been able to do it in a flexible setting not done before at Berkeley SD.

Return on Investment: Berkeley estimates a savings of \$2,000 per course unit created, in this example four units were created. This is based off the time and resources they would have otherwise had to use to create a course of this quality from scratch. These savings will accumulate over time as this new approach to building out virtual and physical courses gains momentum. In summary, the district curriculum leader concluded that the work that Pearson has done to convert their content to a thin common cartridge has "made developing courses easy".