

# Colonial School District and Frontier



## Colonial School District

**Location:** New Castle, Delaware

**Technology:** Frontier powered by eSpark Learning

**Students served:** 1,700 Title I 4th and 5th graders

## Challenges

In 2016, Colonial School District was looking for a solution that would support the following goals:

- Build stronger writers and readers
- Address the diverse range of skill levels found in 4th and 5th grade classrooms
- Give Title I students access to relevant digital tools

## Solution

To achieve these goals, Colonial partnered with eSpark Learning to bring Frontier to the district's 4th and 5th grade students.

Frontier guides students through every stage of the 21st century writing process, from digital research to peer review and revision, and Colonial leaders believed this partnership would support the district's vision for an ELA curriculum that would "provide a stimulating learning environment that enables all students to read widely, think critically, and communicate effectively in order to function in the 21st century and beyond."

Colonial teachers use Frontier to consistently lead strong writing lessons that ask students to research and write about relevant, engaging topics like self-driving cars, climate change, and social media. Each Frontier lesson features curated high quality online content and writing challenges that have been

vetted for rigor and engagement, saving Colonial teachers hours of lesson planning each week while setting a standard of curricular excellence. At the end of each lesson, students use Frontier to complete an informational, opinion, or narrative writing challenge that they share with their peers for feedback.

## Learning Impact Outcomes

Since implementing Frontier, Colonial teachers have seen significant changes in their classrooms. "Frontier gives students that sense of empowerment and ownership over their learning. It's giving them that confidence that they need to go to the next level," says Sarah Bateman, a 4th grade teacher at Colonial.

Frontier's digital lessons have allowed Colonial teachers to discreetly level instruction within a whole-class setting, providing students with multimedia informational texts that are appropriate to both their age and skill level.

As a Title I district, Colonial serves many students who do not have reliable access to technology at home. Supporting students in developing digital media literacy while giving them hands on access to tools like Google Docs and Google Slides, Frontier prepares Colonial students for the 21st century rigors of college and careers.

## Return on Investment

On average, teachers spend three to four hours planning each lesson they teach. By swapping out just one lesson per week with a Frontier lesson, Colonial teachers using Frontier save 100 hours of lesson planning each year while increasing the quality of their instructional practice. If 85 teachers use Frontier at least once a week, Colonial School District can save 8,500 hours of lesson planning each year.