FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS
Quality Learning and Superior Performance for All
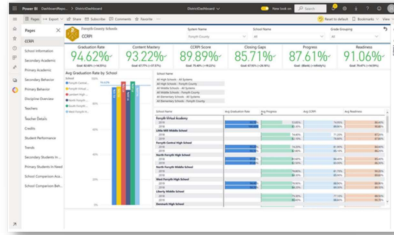
Microsoft

DIGITAL GRADUATION PREDICTOR
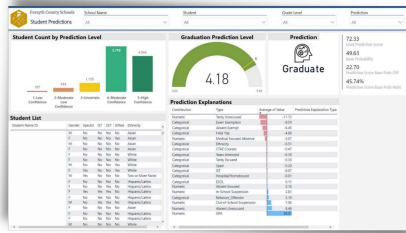# AND VIRTUAL COUNSELOR

CHALLENGE

Forsyth County Schools (FCS) needed a fast, easy, and accurate way to recognize at-risk students and predict graduation likelihood. Historically, each school team manually analyzed student data across disparate systems, making it difficult and time-consuming to assess and identify struggling students, and proactively assist those needing help. FCS required a cost-effective approach to consolidate district data and deliver fast, comprehensive insights to:

· Predict student outcomes
· Identify and resolve issues critical to student success
· Boost academic performance
· Increase graduation rate
· Help students who had given up
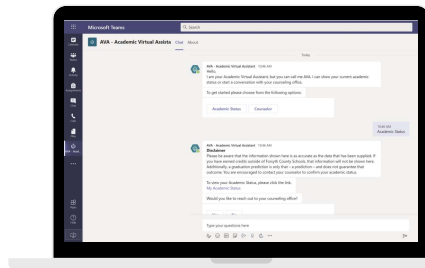· Make students a part of the graduation solution

SOLUTION

Using Microsoft Azure, Power BI, and machine learning, FCS created a custom data-driven solution to achieve these objectives. This innovation is comparable to a counselor who can instantly analyze a student's scholastic history, compare their performance to current/former students, predict their graduation potential, then make recommendations for personalized learning to improve the feasibility of graduating. This "virtual counselor" can accomplish this nearly instantaneously – with thousands of students – using real-time data, allowing counseling staff to use high-fidelity information when working with at-risk students.

"When it comes to revolutionizing student academic outcomes that were previously impossible, we've seen a shift from technology to analytics."
Curt Godwin, Network Operations Coordinator

LEARNING IMPACT

The solution FCS and Microsoft developed impacts all 51,000 students in the district and allows counselors to find students who are struggling and target them for assistance. Though important for all students, this can be especially impactful for those in 11th and 12th grades. Using the Academic Virtual Assistant, or AVA, students can see a real-time analysis of their academic performance, allowing them to self-assess their area(s) of greatest need. Additionally, they can make appointments with counselors to discuss their individual plans.

"The most important indicator of future success is whether a student graduates from high school." Tim Fleming, Director of Technology Services.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Many people gauge return on investment as money or time. FCS Dashboard did save the district thousands of dollars and untold amounts of person-hours, but the real return was on the students who graduated that otherwise would not have. Paired with FCS, Microsoft continues to invest in the empowerment of every student to achieve more. This changes the lives of the student, their families, and their careers forever. Graduation is the foundation of their future and the value of that is unparalleled.

IMS GLOBAL
Learning Consortium
Better Learning From Better Learning Technology

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