

# HENRYCONNECTS

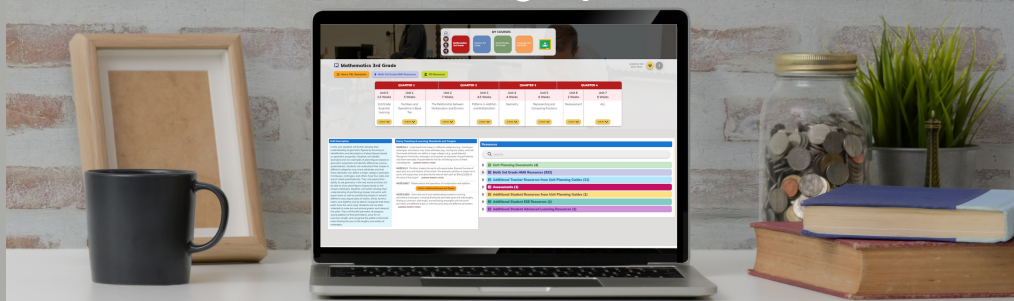
IMS Global 2022 Learning Impact Award Finalist

## Problem

A teacher's success hinges on their ability to focus their energy and efforts on designing engaging instruction that deeply engages students in learning. In Henry County four years ago, this was not the case. Teachers were expending much of their time simply trying to find the resources they needed in order to plan, which left them with limited time to do much else. Teachers were suffering from platform fatigue and expressing feelings of exhaustion from independently searching for and creating their own instructional resources. Frameworks were not in place to pace when curriculum should be taught, and there were no core instructional resources. Each of the 52 schools had autonomy to make their own instructional decisions and purchases, but there was no guarantee of the quality of the resources being used or if they were aligned to standards. Teachers needed to focus their intellectual capital on high quality instructional design that would lead to student learning instead of spending all of their time finding and vetting resources.

## Solution

Our Henry County Board of Education made a commitment to teachers and students to invest in and provide an aligned system of teaching and learning with equitable access to resources. District leaders worked tirelessly to develop learning progressions, unit planning guides, learning targets, assessments, and professional development resources for every course, grade, and subject as a first step to provide teachers what they needed to be successful. A subsequent investment was then made for core instructional resources. These investments to provide the tools and resources was key, however providing teachers access to these resources in a single location that was intuitive and easy to use was equally important. From this need the vision for HenryConnects was born, and the journey began to build an ecosystem founded on IMS interoperability standards that was intuitive to the way a teacher plans for instruction.



## Learning Impact Outcomes

HenryConnects is designed to be a one-stop-shop where teachers can easily access high-quality, standards-aligned instructional resources needed to design high quality instruction. Gone are the days of teachers independently searching for and vetting resources. HenryConnects now houses more than 100,000 learning resources that are organized around district-produced Learning Progressions, allowing teachers to instantly see resources aligned to specific courses and units of instruction. As soon as a teacher signs in, they have everything they need specific to the courses they teach at their fingertips. Teachers across our district have become more efficient and effective in planning for and delivering instruction. We deeply believed in the art and science of teaching and wanted to give teachers the opportunity to use their creativity and tailor lessons to the needs of their students. The connection between standards and resources are much clearer to teachers, and within a single click teachers can have high-quality resources in the hands of our students.

## Return on Investment

Because of HenryConnects, our HCS teachers were able to quickly transition teaching from their classrooms to kitchen tables and living rooms within 72 hours when COVID-19 turned our lives upside down. Despite the multitude of uncertainties during this time, how our teachers would access instructional resources, was not one of them. Resources were available to teachers 24/7 as they worked tirelessly to ensure learning continued even in a pandemic thanks to HenryConnects. An initial teacher survey provided overwhelmingly positive feedback and appreciation for the development of HenryConnects. Teacher usage stats during COVID-19 were pretty incredible and are steadily growing. The latest enhancement to HenryConnects includes a detailed reporting system that identifies which resources are being used and where there are gaps in available resources. District leadership can identify schools and individual teachers that are taking the greatest advantage of the resources already available. Having revolutionized the way Henry County teachers teach, the HenryConnects Family View will be released this fall to provide streamlined access to timely and relevant information, tools, and resources that will strengthen the partnership between schools and families to create an exceptional learning experience for every student.

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN



"Wow! Where has this been my whole career? I love how HenryConnects makes all the resources easier and quicker to find. This is by far the best resource that Henry County has provided in a long time. The links and activities in Henry Connects will alleviate the stress of locating activities and will be helpful in lessening our workload when planning lessons." - 1st Grade Teachers